New Sanity Bore

Oil on Canvas

50 x 86 cm

2017

"New Sanity Bore" is very loosely based on the landscapes around Sanity Bore, as well as Lake Cadibarrawirracanna, located in the far north of South Australia. There was something about the name "Sanity Bore", clearly given in irony, but nevertheless evocative of the persistence and resilience of the people that choose this part of the country to make their living, that inspired this piece.

Renewable energy is sometimes seen as synonymous with the new, the future, and still finding its way into our lives. However for people in the remotest parts of our country, reliance on renewables is as old as their communities and has always been the cornerstone of their industry. The windmill has for decades being drawing water up from underground to quench the thirst of livestock living in some of the most unhospitable country in Australia. However these windmills, although evocative and indelibly linked with the outback, are in reality being phased out. The distinct shape and sound of the windmill are increasingly being replaced by electric pumps powered by solar panels. It is not uncommon to find the old and the new side by side, the old windmill, disconnected and slowly disintegrating, with its silent unobtrusive replacement at its foot, slowly following the sun.

This example of adaption and progress, albeit unsentimental, in the face of an environment that has always been unforgiving is valuable to recall as we move forward.

The gentleman in the painting is Travis. He has for many years tirelessly researched and advocated for the protection of GAB spring environments.