

# What a Bonney Beautiful Spot!

Jarrad Kilsby (Classroom Teacher – Year 4/5)

Joanna Whitehead (Specialist Science Teacher R-7)





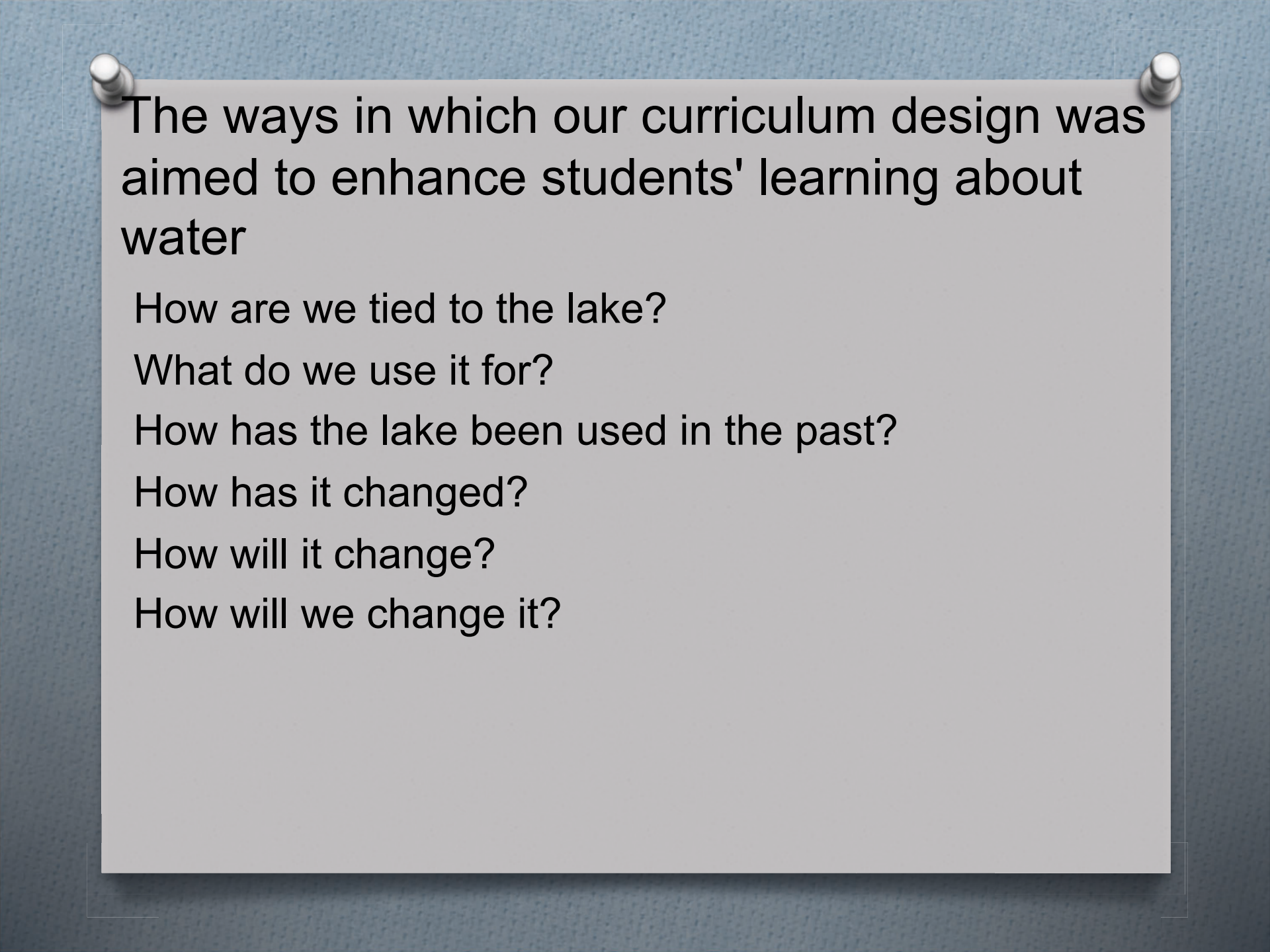
# Our class context

- o Year 4/5
- o 26 children
- o 17% NESB
- o 15% Aboriginal
- o Multiple NEP students

# Our research question

How can we build a connection between Lake Bonney and our students?





The ways in which our curriculum design was aimed to enhance students' learning about water

How are we tied to the lake?

What do we use it for?

How has the lake been used in the past?

How has it changed?

How will it change?

How will we change it?



# Types of data we collected

Prior knowledge of the lake

Conversations

Futures scenarios

Expo presentations

Feedback surveys



# Expo exhilarates environment students

Featured

General

News

September 8, 2017

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Barmera Primary School year 5 student Fletcher Dillon and year 4 student Hunta Westkott showcasing a large Murray cod at the Kids Teaching Kids environment expo earlier this week. PHOTO: Christian Longobardi

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## BARMERA NAMED THE TIDIEST OF THEM ALL

Keep Australia Beautiful has announced the South Australian finalist Barmera as the Overall Winner of the 2017 Australian Tidy Towns Awards, at an event held in Triabunna, Tasmania on 12 May.

The Australian Tidy Towns program sets out to recognise the hard work undertaken by individuals and groups in rural communities, and share these best practices and ideas to continue to improve our vibrant rural towns. Running since 1990, the national awards are sponsored by the [Australian Packaging Covenant](#) and the [Department of the Environment](#).

Barmera also won **Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention Waste Management & Resource Recovery, Environmental Sustainability, Young Legends** and were joint winners in the **Environmental Education** category. They were also highly commended in **Community Action and Wellbeing**.

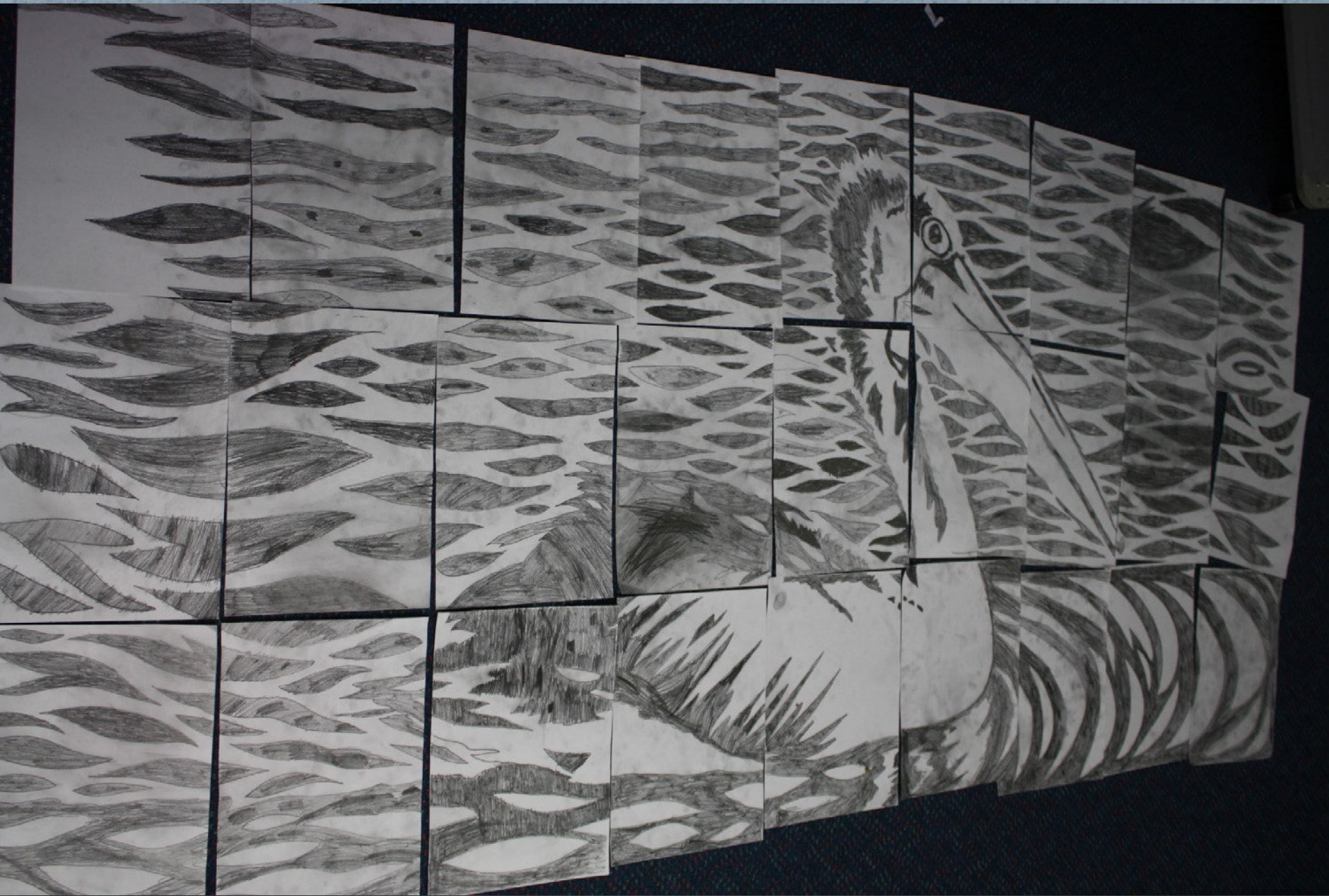
Australian Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant said, "There is a strong emphasis in Barmera on community engagement of all age groups and keeping morale high through some challenging times when prolonged drought has threatened livelihoods and habitats throughout the region.

"Local job creation that capitalises on local assets and emerging opportunities such as solar farm development and new value added industries based around local produce and tourism events, is yielding success and a variety of opportunities that will help young people stay in the region and also provide resilience in the community."

Val Southam, Interim Chief Executive, Keep Australia Beautiful said, "The strong investment in public spaces, recreational facilities, environmental education and the focus on youth has created a strong nurturing of future leaders and celebration of their success that provides an inspiration to other young people.

"It's pleasing to see another year of high calibre National finalists from every corner of our amazing country."





# What happened? The added extras

Go Fund My Neighb

## Lakeside Learning classroom



Revamp and further develop an existing Lakeside outdoor learning space.

award winning Environmental Primary School recognized both state wide and we wish to extend our children's learning experiences outdoors into a open classroom space. There is such a space on the lake front here at which has been neglected and misused for some time. We would like support the area and restructure the existing "amphitheatre" to create an functional and shaded space. This space would be used not only by our but visiting schools - especially those who book into our Aquatics school

This project did not receive enough votes to be funded.

### Project details

Suggested by **Jarrad**

Sponsored by **Barmera District War Memorial Community centre ( Barmera Central)**

### Region

**Riverland**

### Budget

**\$45,000.00**

62 votes received

### Spread the word

## COMMENTS

### COMMENTS CLOSED

2 comments

**Marilyn Brock**

07 Nov 2017

What a fantastic idea, whether it be learning nature and outdoors, classroom as a reward space or for the aquatics, what a glorious environment.

Like (0)

**Sally Minns**

06 Nov 2017

A really good idea .I think this area was developed a long time ago and needs updating

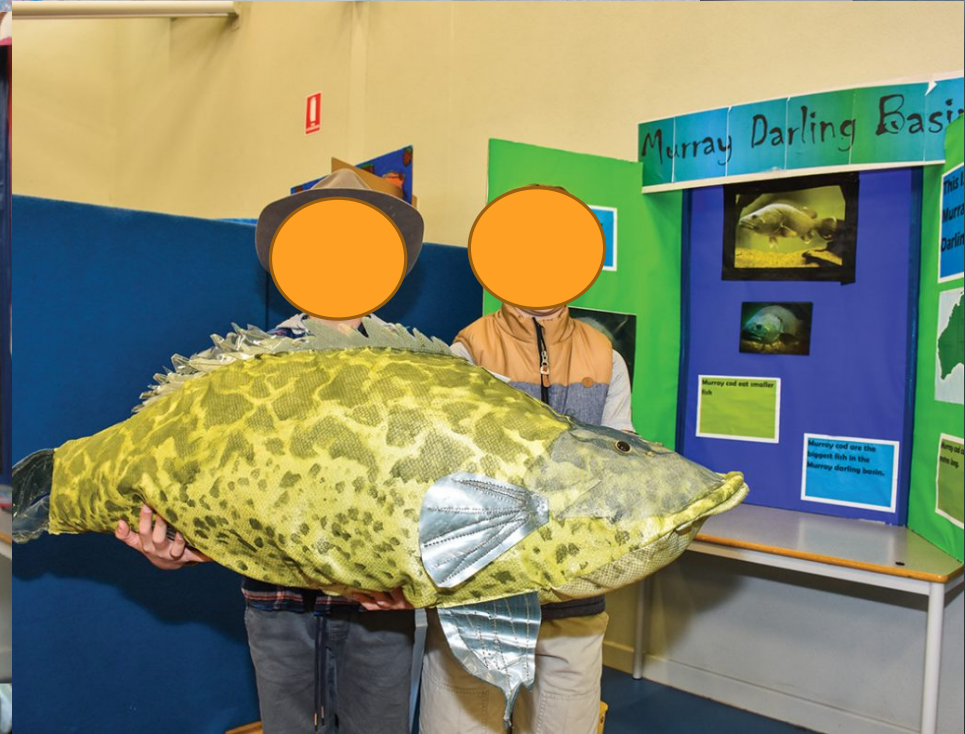
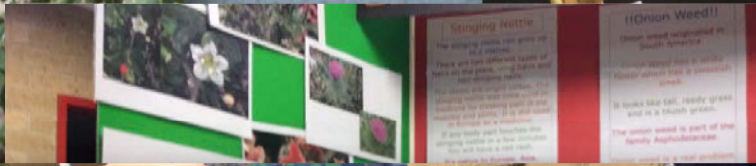
Like (0)



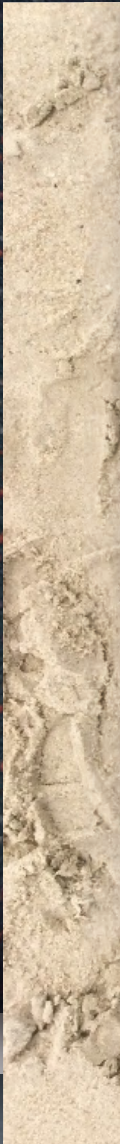
What happened?  
The added extras

- o Council Support









# What's making a positive difference?

## Our evidence of change/accomplishments

- o Student connection with the community
- o Student voice within the community
- o Student responsibility for action within the community
- o Connection to literacy and numeracy through a shared interest
- o Connection to each other through a shared goal

# What's making a positive change?

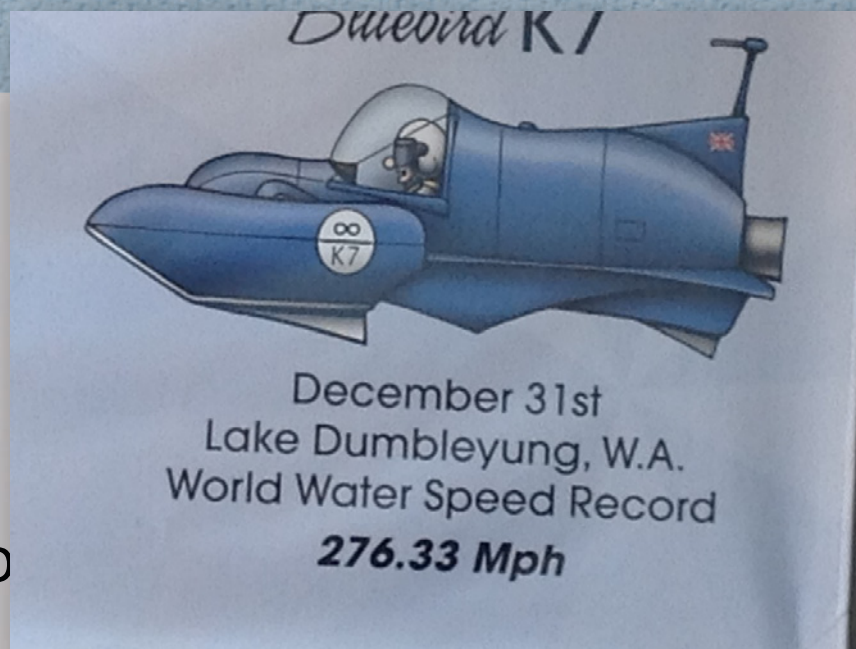
Our evidence of change/achievement

- Post interviews
- Increase in skills in interviewing
- Inquiry skills
- Scientific research
- Responsibility



This building was formerly the  
**Lake Bonney Pumping Station**  
 Commissioned in 1920

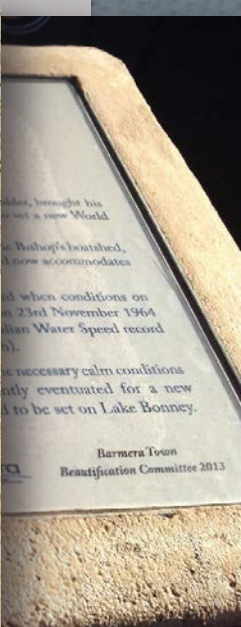
The station supplied lake water to vineyards and orchards around Barmera and the Nookamka Division of the Cobdogla Irrigation Area. It closed down in 1930 due to rising salinity which made the lake water unsuitable for irrigation.



school's  
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# What did we learn?

Our students learn best when they are connected with the topic.

It's all about connection.

If it means something, it is worth something to the kids.

# What will we do in the future?

- o Always work with another teacher.
- o Have a supportive network.
- o Bring in experts.
- o Have an endpoint and celebration.

# Conclusions

Connection creates meaning



Meaning creates engagement



Engagement creates a disposition for learning

# Acknowledgements

Glenys Matthews

UniSA

Bruce and Linda Richter

Berri-Barmera Council

Parents

Community members