



Alex Byrne, *Barka 9 – Pelicans*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
365 x 260

The Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, roost around the coast on sandbanks, rock platforms and reefs, or swim in lagoons, bays and estuarine waters. On the rare occasions that monsoonal rains flood the salt lakes in the arid inland, pelicans flock there in their thousands to breed. When the interior dries out, they leave and head for less-ephemeral terrestrial wetlands or the coast.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 10 - Fish Kill*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
365 x 260

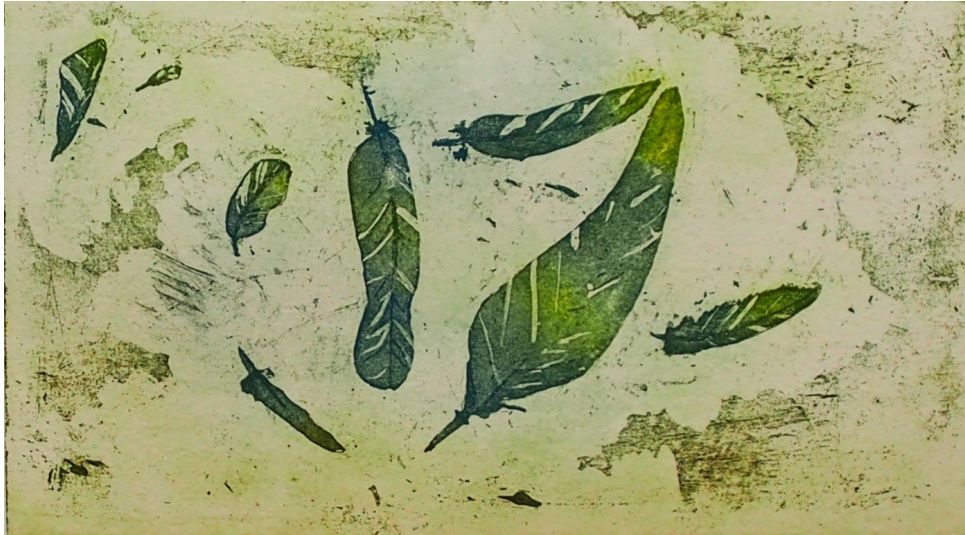
Enormous numbers of fish died in the Lower Darling during the summer of 2018/19, most downstream of Menindee Lakes. Independent reports to the Murray Darling Basin Authority advised that 'over a million' fish may have died and identified the main causes: lack of water flowing in and years of over-allocation of water throughout the Basin to agriculture, ignoring and rejecting scientific advice. Blue green algae to thrive in low water and when the algae die and decompose oxygen levels fall below critical levels, causing the fish to die.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 11 – Menindee*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
365 x 260

The oldest European settlement on the Barka, Menindee was established in 1852. It hosted Burke and Wills in 1860 on their ill fated expedition to the north coast. By the 1880s paddle steamers carried supplies and wool to and from South Australia. Construction of weirs created shallow lakes that enabled irrigation of fruit, grapes and vegetables until ended by declining water levels. The imposing Kinchenga woolshed in the nearby National Park recalls the enormity of the wool industry.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 12 – Feathers*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
325 x 220

The central and lower Barka has supported large populations of waterbirds including freckled duck, grey teal, pink-eared duck, red-necked avocet, sharp-tailed sandpiper and red-capped plover. Birds of the floodplain and woodlands include the diamond dove, sacred kingfisher, rufous whistler, regent parrot, superb parrot, yellow rosella and pink cockatoo. Populations of both have been reduced by drought and water capture.

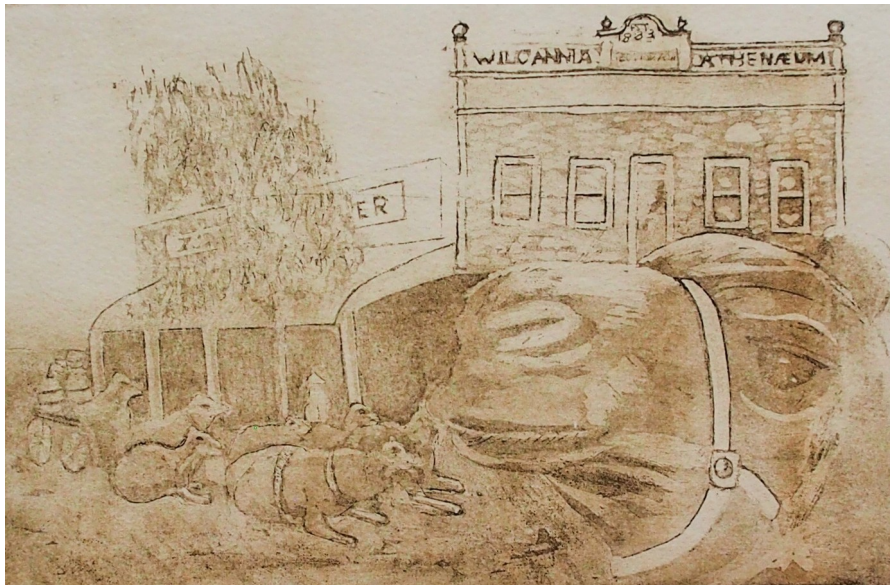


Alex Byrne, *Barka 13 - Sturt Desert Pea*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
210 x 260

Sturt's Desert Pea, *Swainsona formosa*, is the floral emblem of South Australia. In *Narrative of an Expedition into Central Australia*, Sturt refers several times to its beauty in flower and the harsh nature of its habitat, and notes that beyond the Darling River:

... we saw that beautiful flower the Clianthus formosa [sic] in splendid blossom on the plains. It was growing amid barrenness and decay, but its long runners were covered with flowers that gave a crimson tint to the ground.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 14 – Wilcannia*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
365 x 260

Displacing the Paakantyi, miners and graziers occupied the Wilcannia area from the 1870s. Known as 'Queen City of the West', Wilcannia became the third largest port on the Barka and was a hub for coach routes across Western NSW and for camel trains to remote stations and mines. A streetscape of imposing buildings constructed from locally quarried sandstone survive, including the Knox and Downs Store, Athanaeum Library and the Club Hotel.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 15 – Anabranche*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
365 x 260

The southern part of the Great Artesian Basin, formed 250-60 million years ago, underlies the Darling Basin, where the Darling River and its tributaries meander across giant floodplains of the interior, making many twists and turns on their way to the Murray and eventually the Southern Ocean. New channels cut by floods have left lagoons and anabranches.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 16 – Lamb*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
365 x 260

Dunlop Station on the Barka near Louth ran approximately 184,000 sheep. The station produced so much wool that it had its own wharf and in 1888 the shearing shed at Dunlop was the first large shed to introduce mechanical shearing when 40 shearing machines invented by Frederick Worsley were installed.

