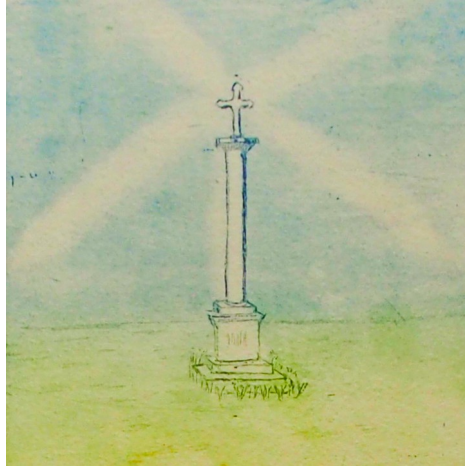




Alex Byrne, *Barka 25 – Mutawintji*, 2020

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

A site of major spiritual significance to the Wiimpatja, Mutawintji includes more than 300 sacred places including creation places, rock engravings, paintings and evidence of long occupation. An extraordinary hillside of engravings overlook a large oval trodden flat over many generations as clans met for ceremony and trade. Peoples came from far away such as the Adnyamathanha from Ikara/Wilpena Pound across the gibber plains and desert.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 26a - Louth Mary Matthews Memorial*, 2020

Aquatint & Etching; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5; 200 x 200

Mary was the wife of Louth's founder, TA Mathews, an Irishman who voyaged to Victoria to seek gold. Two years later he sent for his family to join him on the Darling at Louth (named for his birth place). Following Mary's early death at 42, Thomas commissioned an ornamental cross that reflects the setting sun onto the town and, on the anniversary of her death, onto their former doorstep.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 26b - Louth Shearers Bike*, 2020

Etching; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
250 x 170

The enormous sheep industry depended on itinerant workmen and especially shearers who travelled the dusty inland tracks on foot or, if they were lucky, by bicycle or riverboat. In times of drought and depression, they moved from town to town, station to station seeking work or at least the dole.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 27 – Cockatoos*, 2020

Aquatint; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemühle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5;
350 x 250

The raucous cries of sulphur crested cockatoos, *Cacatua galerita*, greets any camper along the tree lined rivers of the Murray Darling basin. Like naughty children, they squabble for perches and tear at trees and crops. They are known – and often reviled – for their destruction of buildings, powerlines, etc. Their more sedate cousins, the pink cockatoos are usually found only in the arid and semi-arid regions.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 28 - Breaking of the Drought*, 2020

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

Drought is one of the most feared cycles in the Australian climate and appears to be exacerbated by climate change coupled with poor land management practices. Crop failure, stock losses, loss of native animals and plants, bushfires, fish kills, dust storms and land degradation are consequences that lead to considerable economic losses and great distress, especially among those most directly affected. The 'green blush' that spreads across after the rains come offers new life and hope to all.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 29 - Bourke Old Bridge*, 2020

Aquatint & Etching; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5; 250 x 200

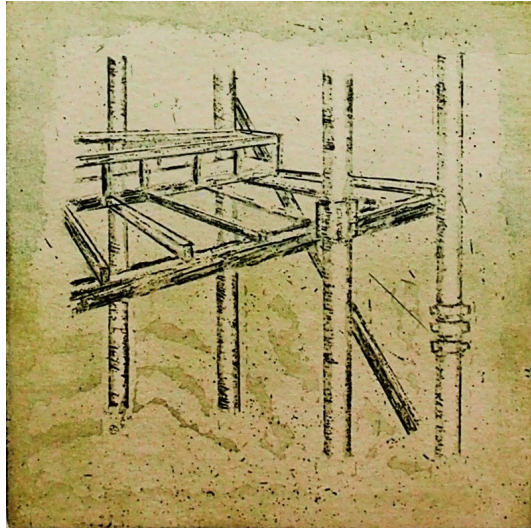
Opened in May 1883, the North Bourke Bridge is the oldest moveable span bridge in Australia. It provided easy access for wool teams from the northwest to reach the railhead at Bourke and has a bent deck to facilitate droving. Built from iron imported from England via Bathurst, its lifting span was designed to let paddle steamers travel up the main channel of the Barka.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 30a - Bourke Spoonbill*, 2020

Aquatint & Etching; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300 gsm 1 AP + 5; 200 x 200

The Yellow billed Spoonbill, *Platalea flavipes*, forages in the shallows of freshwater wetlands and lagoons across inland Australia. It feeds on aquatic insects and their larvae, using its wide bill to sweep shallow waters, locating prey with many vibration detectors. It often nests in colonies, placing platform of sticks and reeds in trees or among reed beds.



Alex Byrne, *Barka 30b - Bourke Old Wharf*, 2020

Aquatint & Etching; Barka/Darling series on Hahnemuhle 300
gsm 1 AP + 5; 200 x 200

The 'old wharf' at Bourke is actually a replica showing the construction of river wharfs. They had to be designed to cope with varying river heights and the high banks that had been carved out over years. Heavy arriving supplies and equipment had to be raised and consigned bales of wool had to be lowered to the paddle steamers below.

