

'The ART VAULT' Art Gallery Mildura. Victoria

"CONFLUENCE."

October to October 2014.

Opening Saturday October 2014.

ARTIST STATEMENT.: John WHITNEY.

"Confluence / n **1.** a flowing together of two or more streams. **2.** a place of junction. **3.** the body of water so formed. **4.** a coming together of people or things. "

At first we had focused on mainly the physical landscapes of the two junctions (confluences) between the River Murray and the Murrumbidgee and Darling rivers.

Physically they differ; one joining at ninety degrees, the other at a narrow twenty degrees with different coloured waters.

However we then began looking at the history of the two sites and at human habitation or encounters. The historic journey of Captain Charles Sturt and his longboat rowing down the Murrumbidgee to the Murray and then rowing the full length down to the river mouth and back captured our imagination. Added to the fact that the two confluences we were considering were also important sites where Sturt encountered and liaised with the local indigenous groups; another confluence of sorts. This was to prove invaluable for him at the Darling junction nine days later.

I have endeavored to explore and cover both of the confluence possibilities. Through use of historic images of the time that recorded the encounters between Captain Charles Sturt and the indigenous peoples. (old lithographs, stamps, maps and rubbings) and from working at both the chosen sites I have documented the significance of these two sites.

John Whitney. September 2014.