

# MENINDEE ENTERPRISE PARK

## EDUCATION SERVICES



## **Traineeships**

Traineeships area pathway for senior students at Menindee to complete their final school years.. They allow trade training for all students leading to a trade training certificate as well as a HSC certificate.

We do not favour one above the other but rather see both as worthwhile to engage our students. We expect all students when they have completed year 12 to progress to further study or full time employment.

## **Context**

Menindee Central School's vision is a community school where people develop in a caring, stimulating environment. We can achieve this by focussing on enhancing student's welfare, providing an appropriate curriculum, child centred teaching and learning, quality professional development of staff and the encouragement of community involvement and participation. The school provides K-12 learning, catering for years 11-12 through the Access Program which links Menindee with central schools in Ivanhoe and Wilcannia.

Menindee is a remote school in far west NSW. Student population approximately 116 students 70% of whom are Aboriginal.

The school focuses on:

- Improving outcomes in the basics of literacy, numeracy, attendance and retention
- Providing a culturally sensitive curriculum in collaboration with Dr. Bob Morgan inaugural President of AECG.
- Engaging students through innovative programs and the employment of Aboriginal community members. All students have access to traineeships from Year 10 to Year 12, VET courses and the Menindee Enterprise and Trade Training Centre.
- Implementing the Quality Teacher Framework for teachers by regular support each term from Associate Professor James Ladwig.

## **Policy**

1. The school seeks to enable every Year 10 student to commence a traineeship. This aim is based on the fact that Menindee students are severely disadvantaged by engagement opportunities in relation to the availability and location of traineeships. Most students often come from homes where their immediate family have never been employed.
2. The school does not necessarily see that traineeships will be a lifelong occupation just as the world today does not provide lifelong employment in one position.
3. Our support for students is unqualified and while we seek success we cannot guarantee it nor will we be discouraged by failure to achieve.
4. Work education is part of their curriculum from Year 7 to Year 9 for at least one period a week. We seek to provide knowledge and opportunities in various ways and encourage work experience in innovative ways especially for our students at risk.
5. Experience has shown that traineeships located in Menindee are more satisfactory and there is greater success than located in Broken Hill. However, if students have a desire to undertake training in Broken Hill then we will facilitate it as if possible.

### **Menindee Enterprise Park**

1. Menindee Enterprise Park was developed in recognition that training opportunities were limited in Menindee.
2. The lack of opportunities for training is the direct result of a small remote rural community where services and opportunities have declined over time and because of the unreliability of water, agriculture and horticulture has been affected.
3. Menindee Enterprise Park offers opportunities for traineeships in business, agriculture, horticulture, hospitality and construction.
4. The Menindee Enterprise Park will assist businesses where they are unable to afford an employee to provide the training through financial support.
5. Attached is a copy of the various programs that the Menindee Enterprise Park is making possible.

### **Partnerships**

1. MEP is seeking to develop partnerships with industry and organisations to promote and grow the centre.
2. Partnerships include:
  - a. Broken Hill TAFE (Scott Dennis)
  - b. Broken Hill Enterprise Development Centre (Steve Miller)
  - c. Countrylink (Phillip Simons)
  - d. Department of State and Regional Development (Vera Fiala)
  - e. Regional Development Australia (Linda Nadge)
3. The Department of Education Broken Hill through Michael Williams has provided support as has Narelle Symonds of the Australian Business Limited Apprenticeship Centre.



# Menindee Enterprise Park

## History

The Enterprise Park is a product of the Schools in Partnership 2005-2009.

One of the prime objectives was to implement a philosophy of doing business differently. We sought a means of engaging students prior to school and making their learning significant and meaningful. In the senior years we sought to ensure every student stayed on to achieve their HSC as well as completing a trade training course.

We have achieved one further step of now being able to provide employment beyond school in the areas of business, hospitality, tourism and construction.

How did we achieve it ? We acknowledge that it wouldn't have occurred if we hadn't:

- had donations and works in kind from the community. Currently about \$350,000 has been raised
- become a regional winner in National Australia Bank's Schools First program and received \$50,000
- received a grant from the Commonwealth Government of \$100,000 to build the infrastructure
- had a smaller grant from Bendigo Bank for the Yarn Up Corner.

It is an aim of the enterprise to make it a green project, totally sustainable with renewal power, and to even raise funds by sale of excess energy to the grid.

The Enterprise Park has been developed to benefit students by engaging them from birth (through the 0-5 program) up to employment in a town industry making small one-bedroom transportable homes.

It will employ and it will train. The Park will develop pride in workmanship. It will become a tourist destination. This will only happen only with the continued support of the community.

We have gone beyond and dreamt big things. We know over time that it will make a difference.



Without the Commonwealth Government funding there is only so much that goodwill and scrounging can get you. It took over two years to achieve that funding. We have been lucky to receive a small amount of money to supplement the grant money.

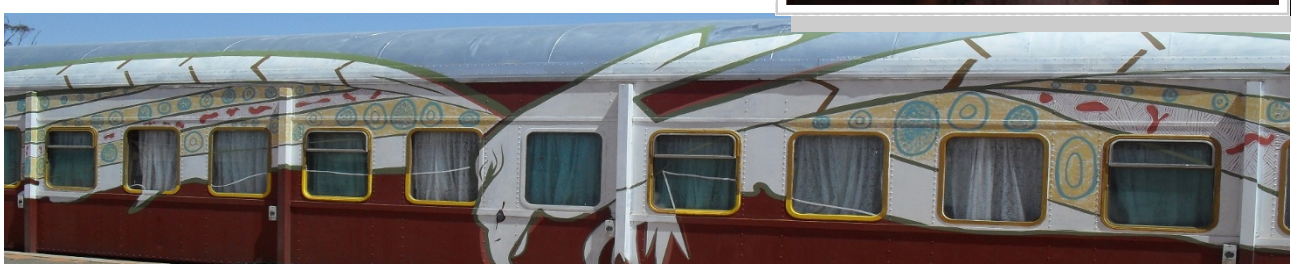
From 2009 we were ready for business.

Funds from the grants were used:

- To build our railway station a facade has been built around two demountable administration buildings from the old hospital
- To construct a wall to hold back the platform and to provide carriage access by students to renovate the inside of the 'station' to provide a radio station studio 2MCS-FM 88.0
- To purchase two rainwater tanks
- To build a 'yarning' and campfire area
- To install air-conditioning in both carriages, Annie the dining car and Bruce the sleeper
- To perform minor repairs and adjustments to the diner
- To purchase sleeping carriage from Peterborough Steam Museum.

Donations were received for:

- Earthworks to build the platform and around the 'station buildings', by State Water
- Track preparation by Central Darling Shire Council
- Connection of the electricity to park by Country Energy
- Connection of water to the park by Country Water
- Landscaping the area and planting area with natives and bush tucker plants \*
- Purchasing the carriage Annie
- Levelling of the block by Central Darling Shire Council
- Laying foundations for the demountable buildings by construction students at MCS
- Positioning demountables on site by Coombe's Transport
- Provision of the radio aerial and move to site.





## ***Programs at the Enterprise Park***

### **TRAINEESHIPS**

#### **Overview**

Outcomes from the traineeships program so far are that the school is retaining students into the HSC years and they are graduating. From 2004-2008 the average retention rate for the school was 29%. The state average was 59%. In 2011 Menindee Central School reached 73% retention.

There are few employment opportunities in Menindee. Traineeships are generally TAFE based with an on site work commitment for 100 days over two years, for which students are paid approximately \$80 per day

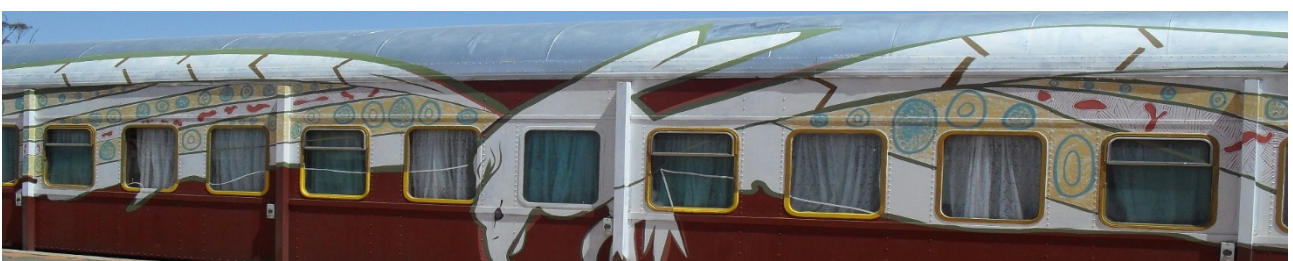
The park is now a training facility for traineeship positions. Travel to Broken Hill makes it difficult and has contributed to students dropping their traineeships.

#### **Benefits**

- Having a number of traineeships at MEP helps the school to schedule traineeships on one day per week. This cuts down on the disruption currently experienced.
- Students can learn a skill that could lead to future employment.
- Traineeships allow students to experience paid employment.
- They increase student and community pride and enterprise.
- They develop a healthy work ethic and raise expectations of employment

#### **Engagement**

- Traineeships at the Park provides real education in the work place in hospitality, construction, agriculture and tourism.
- Students will be able to engage with tourists who visit the park, thus leading to greater social skills.





### ***Programs at the Enterprise Park***

#### ***LOCAL FM RADIO STATION—2MCS 88 FM***

##### ***Overview***

The school holds a limited transmission licence for upwards of 50 kilometres around Menindee.

##### ***Benefits***

- Students can develop both written and oral skills to use on the radio.
- The radio is used to transmit health and other community information.
- Students will be better connected to the community.
- The School News is able to engage a new audience.

##### ***Engagement***

- Students at risk can gain confidence through playing their music or specific writing prepared during class.
- The project meets the criteria for many aspects of quality teaching.
- It allows the students to converse with and interview tourists.

##### ***Community input***

- Training programs will be provided for community members wishing to have their own program.
- A program will be conducted for the community to gain skills in developing and managing the radio.
- A community advisory group will be established to utilise community expertise and interests.





## ***Programs at the Enterprise Park***

### **STUDENTS AT RISK**

#### **Overview**

The school wishes to engage with all students to Year 12 to ensure they receive their HSC Certificate and beyond. This means special classes, opportunities or tasks that have meaning and engage the students.

In 2009 three students were enrolled under this category. They commenced their traineeships in Year 10, one year ahead of normal commencement. For these students who entered the program in 2009 outcomes have been outstanding. Suspensions for these three students have been reduced to nil for 2009. previously they had 11 suspensions between them in Term 4, 2008.

Identification comes through:

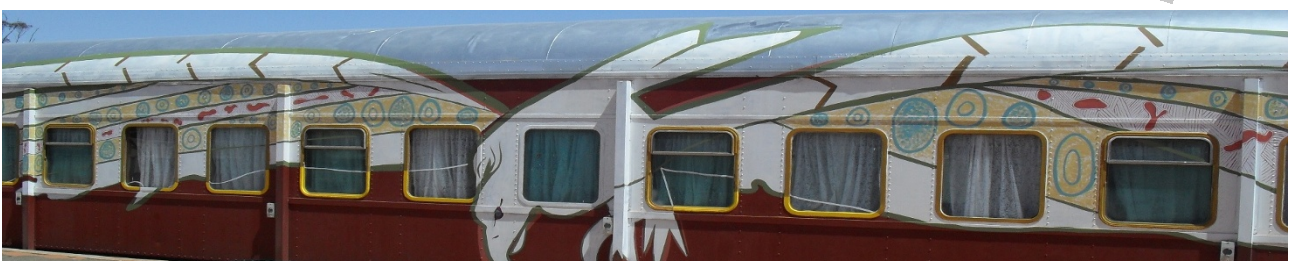
- unsatisfactory attitude to work
- poor academic achievement
- suspension record and risk behaviour

#### **Benefits**

- Students learn practical skills.
- Students enjoy being at school more.
- Students have a better self image.
- Aboriginal Studies and activities will be a core program for students Year 10-12, this developing a positive self-image.
- Social skills are developed.

#### **Engagement**

Students are engaged, involved and fulfilled by meaningful work.







## ***Programs at the Enterprise Park ARTS AND CRAFT CENTRE***

### ***Overview***

Creativity and self-expression can be a feature of Aboriginal culture. The public quest for art products is at an all-time high. The school will seek to attract specialist artists and visitors to come to Menindee to provide voluntary or paid programs. It is possible that this program could develop into a cottage industry.

### ***Benefits***

- Arts and crafts develop students' and community art skills.
- They develop a bond between school and community.
- Students and community gain access to new ideas and new techniques.
- The centre will provide a showcase for art and craft outcomes.
- It will provide income for individuals and the enterprise.
- In 2011 student exhibited their art at the Cooeee Gallery in Bondi and recently at

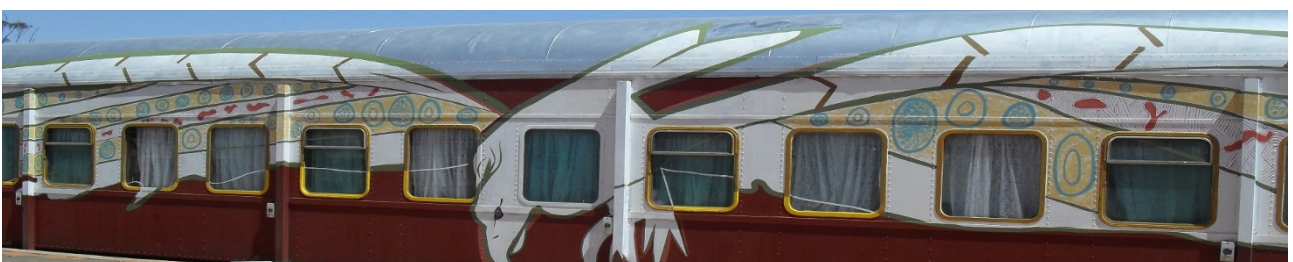


### ***Engagement***

- The students gain a greater engagement / perspective from visual and performing arts.
- The community will develop pride in the product of local artists through both 'traditional' and contemporary artworks.

### ***Community input:***

- The community can provide leadership in some art forms.



## ***A Boutique Accommodation from Yesteryear***

### ***‘BRUCE’***

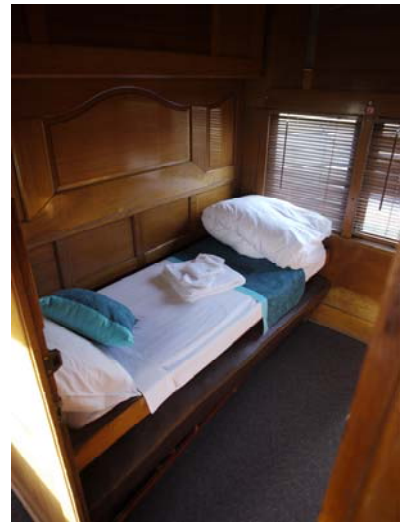
Bruce, the sleeping car, arrived on site to couple with Annie in late October. Bruce is named after a station in the Port Augusta – Quorn rail line (now known as the Pichi Richi Railway). It is a first class sleeper with ten apartments (upper and lower) that entered service on the East-West Express between Port Pirie and Kalgoorlie in 1927. A small lounge area with a self service breakfast bar has been established in Annie, the dining car next door.

### ***Benefits***

- This project will develop skills in students and community in running a small accommodation facility thus providing a wider base in the hospitality area and business studies
- Provide a unique tourist attraction for the town
- Students have the opportunity learn a skill that would lead to future employment
- Increase student and community pride and develop an enterprise that will provide purpose for training and employment.
- Develop a healthy work ethic
- It will generate profits and ensure the sustainability of the Park facility

### ***Engagement***

- It will provide education through work in a hospitality environment of a bed and breakfast
- It will develop tourism as a vital new long-term source of income and employment for the town.





## ***Programs at the Enterprise Park***

### **TRANSPORTABLE HOMES**

#### **Overview**

Housing for students and the community is extremely poor and up until recently of a low standard. Homes are overcrowded, mostly in the state of disrepair.

The Enterprise Park seeks to develop skills beyond the traineeship stage to build small one bedroom transportable homes.

The building that the school proposes to build has been designed and build by Coomealla High School. It is low cost but durable. It is small but adequate. It is new and affordable. Costs are estimated at about \$27,000 with a projected sale price of \$35,000.

It is possible that a trainee starting out in Year 10 and leaving after Year 12 to own the majority of their home! The Park will keep graduates through to the end of their four year apprenticeship.

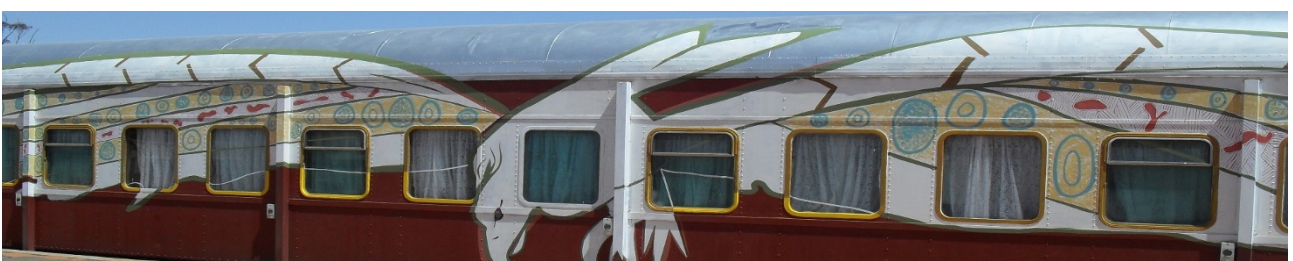
A business plan was completed in 2011 and Menindee Enterprise Park Education Services is seeking funding.

#### **Benefits**

- Students would learn a skill that would lead to future employment
- This will lead to or maintain a high retention rate
- It will provide a tourist attraction on site for the town
- It will increase student and community pride and enterprise
- It will develop a healthy work ethic
- It will have the potential to become a town industry providing unique employment opportunity

#### **Engagement**

- There would be no greater benefit or outcomes than the possibility of building an downing your own home
- It will provide real education through work and breaking the unemployment cycle
- As the enterprise grows the town will build a pool of qualified trades people.



## ***Programs at the Enterprise Park***

### **THE FARM**

#### **Overview**

The farm is a recent addition to the Enterprise Park banner. It seeks to build on a desire to engage students in yet another enterprise allied to one of the major industries that surround the town. Newly arrived staff with interest and expertise, combined with the local industry, offer new opportunities.

As a result of the school's entry to the National Australia Bank's Schools First program, the school received \$50,000 towards the project. This is almost a third of the estimate cost. Additionally money received from the sale of the old principals residence has augmented the grant.

#### **Benefits**

- It will provide fresh produce for:
  - the school canteen
  - the school's hospitality unit
  - the local community
- It will be a sustainable enterprise financially and environmentally (organic).
- It will utilise the skills of teachers with relevant expertise in agriculture and horticulture fields.
- It will provide students K-6 with significant and real life learning opportunities in the fields of horticulture and agriculture.

#### **Engagement**

- It will provide students with skills for future self-sufficiency.
- It will provide students with marketable skills in
  - plant management
  - land management
  - animal husbandry
- It will provide a community-relevant HSC Pathway
- It will be a significant opportunity for Years 7-10 to engage in Agricultural Technology
- It will be a significant opportunity for students in post-school study (e.g. TAFE, University).
- It will be a significant and community relevant continuum of learning from Kindergarten to Year 12.
- It will provide significant learning for the entire school K-12 in Environmental Education.

#### **Community input**

- It will provide students in Years 9-12 with opportunities for traineeships in the agriculture field.
- It will provide real opportunities for partnership with local growers and industries (e.g. Tandou, Grape Exchange, working sheep and cattle stations, State Water, local market gardeners).
- It will provide enhanced opportunities for post-school employment.





## WHO HAS HELPED?

### Who has done the hard yards?

#### Earthworks, machinery, fill, engineering, advice:

Barry Philp, Mick Arandt, Craig Symonds, Harry Philp, Phil Courtney, Clinton Edwards, Wes Thompson, John Bates, Menindee Grape Exchange.

**Provision of portable toilets:** Central Darling Shire Council

**Chairs and tables for Opening function, levelling of the block and other numerous acts of assistance, donation of DA costs:** Max Quayle, Jarvad Williams, Kevin Pumphrey, Trevor Jones, Shane Hindmarsh, and Vic Zammit.

**Connection of electricity and water to the park:** Guy Chick and his team from Country Energy.

**Laying of the rails:** Shane King, Ronald Slater, Jeff Thompson and Ken Lord.

**Assisted in negotiation of the donation of demountable buildings:** Marie Kelly Menindee Health Service . Menindee Auto Repairs.

**Digging the foundations for the train:** Tony Cicak and Krysten Lombardo.

**Levelling the site:** Coombe's Transport

**Transport of demountables and other transport solutions:** Bob and John Coombe

**Radio Aerial:** Department of Education Western Region

**Builders:** George D'Ettorre, Jake Murphy, Neville Werner, Kevin Murphy, Drew Houston and Barry King.

**Yarn Up Circle:** Zada Johnstone, Anthony Kelly, Jak Sloane, Mitchell Fennell, Mali Kelly and Matt white. Also Jim McMillan, Dave White and Jan Fennell—Menindee Police NSW Government.

### Other volunteers

Lawrence Philp, Michael O'Donnell, Colin Clark, Kevin Newman, Ricky Newman, Marley Darrigo, Rodney Nolan

National Australia Bank Broken Hill Branch, Tania Demery, Keisha and Jackie Don Martin, Greg Fennell, Daniel Fusi, Kathy Reid, Steve Langman, Tim Harris, Georgia Shephard, Vel Ryan, Fiona Kelly, Tim McIntyre, Roy Baulch, Karly Fennell, Yaakov Shepherd, Dena McGovern, Mal Williams, Cheryl Johnstone, Pam Martin, Oakley Williams, Codie Gilby, Russell Shephard, Lucille Treverrow, David (Blister) Blore, Bernard Blore, Harley Williams Mali Kelly, Kade Fennell and Djani Kelly.

### Channel 7 The Great Outdoors

Paul Hooker, Caitlin-Amber Coff, Tania Pinal, Aman-

da King, Codi King, Haley King, Cally Doyle, David Doyle, Carol Doyle, Judy Drewery, Georgia Shephard, Leonie King, Joy Williams, Edie Bates, Warren Dolphin, Fale Faeamani, Michelle Kelly, Bradley Connor, Jade Halls, Desiree Jessett, Fiona Kelly, Gemma Fennell, Jak Sloane, Kelly Jesser, Helen Bub-Connor, Shannon Rolton, Geraldine Rolton, Jonathan Smith, Deborah King, David Barnes, Ricey Barnes, Bradan Barnes, Sarah Robbins, Dana Hogg, Leasa Kelly, Dena McGovern, Kerry Harland, Ann Carmody, Kayla Honson, Janet Waters, Jan Fennell, Kade Fennell, William Mafi, David Towney, Mitchell Fennell, Karley Fennell, Jack Irvine, Inga Irvine, Ike Williams, Geroge Dettorre, Daniel Fusi, Kim Irvine, Daryl Irvine, Peter Roberts, Julie Smith, Timothy Harris, Pansy Williams, Gregory Fennell, Dawn Hempel, Jeff Spargo, Rick Ball, Edward Mafi, Rena Lombardo, Kaylah Williams, Brax O'Donnell, Devlen Doyle, Kiara Dolphin, Payton Doyle, Ethan Doyle, Joyella Bates-Talamai, Israel Halls, Chace Glover, Djani Kelly, Mali Kelly, Trinity Connor, Raphael Connor, Courtney Smith, Dylan Smith, Mackenzie Smith, Bridget Marlowe, Jorja Hogg, Jolie Hogg, Jonah Fusi, Jada Hogg, Jali Hogg, Elton Johnstone, Nikita Johnstone, Talon Waters, Tayla Waters, Dylan Marsdon, Tarsha Williams, Jordin Gilby, Robert Ferguson, Adrian Briar, Jarome Cattermole, Eden Spargo, Harley Williams, Joseph Newman, Montana Newman, Tayla Newman, Dana Newman, Cheyenne Mitchell, Neil Mitchell, Will Mitchell, Kyle Mitchell, Oliver Irvine, Toby Irvine, Kieharri Williams, Jaz Fusi,



**Menindee Central School**  
PO Box 88  
Menindee NSW 2978

**CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL**

**countryenergy**

We live here too.

**countrywater**

We live here too.

