**Brian:** Hi I'm Brian Zerner, I'm a wine-grape grower in Mildura. My wife Julie and I moved from Melbourne, we decided that we'd like to start our own business. As far as wine grapes are concerned it's probably a very hot, dry climate so it requires a lot of irrigation.

**Jackson:**﻿Hi I'm Jackson and I studied Civil Engineering and Business at La Trobe in Bendigo. All the irrigators up here are currently using just an open channel where they run pipelines off it and what we're seeing is that it's highly inefficient and there are huge water losses.

**Brian:**﻿The open channel has got safety issues, there are huge evaporation losses there as well. The sun also penetrates all of that water and grows algae, it then starts blocking up the filters and blocking up the drippers.

**Jackson:**﻿What we're looking at doing is providing something where the irrigators can take the water whenever they want and they know they're always going to get good quality water at any time of the year.

**Brian:**﻿The channel that goes through the length of our property will be replaced with an underground pipeline which is about a metre in diameter. You just won't see any water flowing at all. There will also be no evaporation losses, or seepage losses, or safety issues. He didn't come in and say "This is what we're going to do", he said "What would you like us to do?"  Jackson realises that it is going to be valuable not only to this community but to all the irrigation users along the Murray.

**Jackson:**﻿I chose to study at La Trobe because I knew that there was quite a large industry need for engineers. And as I was going through my course I realised the large focus that La Trobe placed on employability and really helping you to get a job once you finish.

**Brian:**﻿We've been able to form a good relationship and strengthen it as the project design has been progressing.

**Jackson:**﻿As you're thinking about where your life is headed afterwards, La Trobe guides you there and helps you out to reach your goals in the end. Yeah, it's a great feeling knowing that you can really be the difference to Brian and the community.

**END**