History

- The first people living in the Port Adelaide area were the Kaurna people.

- At this time the Port Adelaide area was mangrove swamps and tidal mud flats. The Port River was a narrow creek.

- There was a lot of marine, land and bird life in the area, making it a regular place for Aboriginal people to hunt and gather food and seek shelter.

- Europeans first moved into the area in 1836 when South Australia became a British colony.

- Some Europeans called Port Adelaide 'Port Misery' because it was seen as a mosquito ridden swamp.

- Shortly after this, the land was cleared and European diseases such as smallpox and measles caused the Aboriginal people to move inland and into the Adelaide Hills area.

- Some Aboriginal people stayed in the area and found work as domestic servants, dock workers and weavers or repairers of fishing nets and baskets.

- By 1876 Port Adelaide was a busy seaport and became the main port in South Australia.

- Europeans built many stores and warehouses in the area so railway lines were built around the wharf areas, along streets, and connecting to the main lines from Adelaide.

- The Birkenhead Bridge was opened in 1940.

- By 1950 Port Adelaide was rated as the third busiest port in Australia

- Swimming races were often held in the Port River. Not many people swim in the river today because we are more aware of pollution. It is still used for many other recreational activities, including sailing, rowing and fishing.

- The newest bridge over the Port River is the Tom 'Diver' Derrick Bridge that was opened in 2008.

- The Port Adelaide area has a lot of history and played an important part of the establishment of South Australia as it is today.