



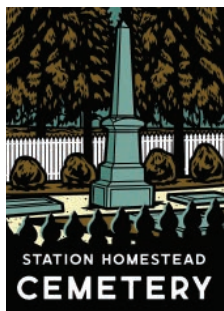
# Mildura's History

## Discover, Explore & Celebrate

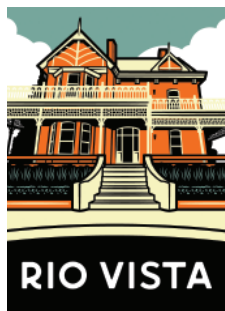
*Take a journey and explore the story of how the Mildura region became an irrigated oasis in the midst of an arid land and Australia's first irrigation colony. Visit the twelve historically significant sites of The Chaffey Trail heritage experience.*



**MILDURA STATION  
HOMESTEAD**



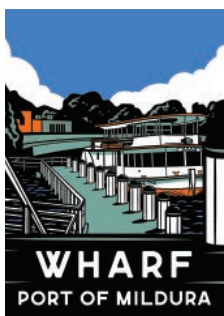
**STATION HOMESTEAD  
CEMETERY**



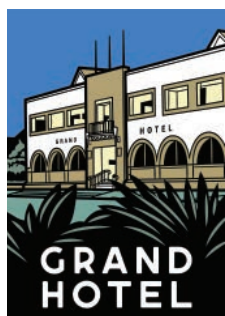
**RIO VISTA**



**LOCK 11  
MILDURA WEIR**



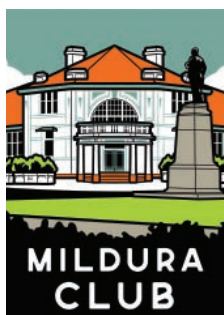
**WHARF  
PORT OF MILDURA**



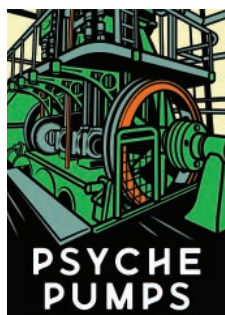
**GRAND  
HOTEL**



**LANGTREE  
HALL**



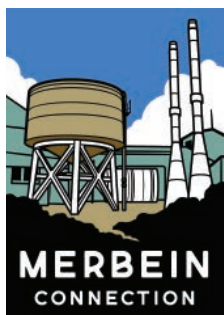
**MILDURA  
CLUB**



**PSYCHE  
PUMPS**



**CHATEAU  
MILDURA**



**MERBEIN  
CONNECTION**



**BIG  
LIZZIE**

### The Chaffey vision unfolds

In 1858 licensed pastoral land was officially named Mildura.

George and William Benjamin (WB) Chaffey were developing an irrigation settlement in Ontario, California when they met the Victorian cabinet Minister Alfred Deakin on a fact finding mission from Australia.

The Chaffey's irrigation settlement impressed Deakin, foreseeing the potential for irrigation from the Murray River in Australia.

The Chaffey brothers subsequently came to Australia and, in 1887 purchased the then defunct pastoral lease and created the Mildura Irrigation Colony.

The Chaffey's developed a series of steam-driven pumps to lift the water from the Murray River, first into King's Billabong, then to various heights to irrigate up to 33,000 acres.

Their plans embrace visionary concepts including the beautiful centre plantation of Deakin Avenue and establishing the incredible foundation that our region now thrives upon, making Mildura the magnificent place it is today.

Now you can trace the development of Mildura through the Chaffey Trail.

Explore [thechaffeytrail.com.au](http://thechaffeytrail.com.au)

#### Dates of Significance

21 October 1886 - Chaffey Brothers signed the Agreement with the Victorian Government  
31 May 1887 - Indenture signed between Chaffeyes, Victorian Government and the Queen



Mildura Rural City Council

## 1 Mildura Station Homestead

278 Cureton Avenue, Mildura

Mildura Station Homestead precinct is a reconstruction of the first Mildura Station established by the Jamieson brothers in 1847, and later purchased by the Chaffey family.

*Open: Daily. For more information contact Mildura Arts Centre: 03 5018 8330*

## 2 Station Homestead Cemetery

Cureton Avenue, Mildura

Mildura's first cemetery includes graves of early pioneers and members of the Chaffey family.

*Accessible any time*

## 3 Rio Vista

199 Cureton Avenue, Mildura

Rio Vista Historic House is one of Mildura's most important heritage buildings, and maintains a commanding presence as part of Mildura Arts Centre and was the home of WB Chaffey and his family. The Spanish named 'Rio Vista' translates to 'River View'.

*Free Entry. Open daily, 10am-4pm. More information from Mildura Arts Centre: 03 5018 8330 | milduraartscentre.com.au*

## 4 Lock 11 / Mildura Weir

Hugh King Drive, Mildura

The Chaffeys' shared vision and desire to have water permanently accessible for irrigation and river transport was fulfilled through a series of locks and weirs along the Murray. Lock 11 commenced construction in 1923 and was completed in 1927.

*Accessible any time.*

## 5 Wharf/Port of Mildura

Hugh King Drive, Mildura

River transport played a very important part in the opening up of the settlement of Mildura. The Mildura Wharf was completed by 1892 and then extended in 1899 and three additional levels were added to accommodate vessels at various river heights.

*Accessible any time.*

## 6 Grand Hotel

Corner 7th Street & Langtree Avenue, Mildura

Mildura was established as a temperance colony and the Grand Hotel was originally the Mildura Coffee Palace. The Chaffey offices next door were later demolished to make way for the expansion of the Grand. The fountain is the only remaining relic of the Chaffey office.

*Phone: 03 5023 0511*

## 7 Langtree Hall

79 Walnut Avenue, Mildura

A privately owned museum has a stunning collection of district memorabilia. Originally situated in Langtree Avenue, the Langtree Hall was Mildura's first public hall built in 1889. It was a venue for many important events in Mildura's early history.

*Open: Wednesday, Friday & Saturday - 10am to 4pm.*

*Admission: \$8 Adults / \$7 Concession / \$2 Child. Phone: 0427 113 090*

## 8 Mildura Club

Corner Deakin Avenue & Ninth Street, Mildura

WB Chaffey was the longest President of the Mildura Club being President during the time of the Club's three homes, overseeing the erection of the current premises which he opened as Mayor of Mildura in 1920. *Open: 4pm daily. Visit [www.milduraclub.com.au](http://www.milduraclub.com.au)*

## 9 Psyche Pumps

Psyche Bend Road, Nichols Point

To create an irrigation settlement, pumps were needed to lift water to the height of the land. Visitors to Psyche Bend can experience the original pump house, reconditioned pumps, steam engine and boiler house.

*Open for Inspection: Tuesday & Thursday - 1pm to 4pm / Sunday - 9:30am to 12pm. Pumps are not expected to be operational in 2023 due to flood damage. Information updates phone 50188380.*

## 10 Chateau Mildura

Belar Avenue, Irymple

In 1888 The Chaffeys' established Chateau Mildura and the local wine industry planting 150 acres of wine grapes on the property. Still operating, the Chateau also houses a Museum dedicated to the local and Australian wine industry.

*Open: Tuesdays to Saturdays - 10am to 4pm. Phone: 0437 291 563*

## 11 Merbein Connection

International Drive, Merbein

Starting from the Merbein Rotary Lookout at the top of the white cliffs, which are a unique geological feature, walk to the left through the Pioneer Plantation along Blandowski Walkway. Pass the distillery/winery that was established by WB Chaffey in 1913 and where he sadly collapsed and died in 1926. Descend down the walkway to the internationally recognised scientist's campsite of 1857, locally known as Chaffey Landing.

*Accessible any time.*

## 12 Big Lizzie

Barclay Square, Calder Highway, Red Cliffs

Apart from its size, the most amazing feature is the 'dreadnaught wheels', designed by Frank Bottrill to allow it to carry heavy loads across sandy terrain. Arriving in 1917, it first worked in the Merbein area carrying wheat and wool. Later, it was used to clear land for the Red Cliffs First World War Soldier Settlement.

*Accessible any time.*



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Visit the website

Current as at June 2023