



Take a journey and explore the story of how the Mildura region became an irrigated oasis in the midst of an arid land (Australia's first irrigation colony).

# EAST MILDURA WALK

3.0 km | 1 - 1.5 hours



The Eastern side of Mildura between Seventh and Eleventh Streets and Deakin and San Mateo Avenues was laid out in Chaffey brothers' original plan. This short walk will take you past some of Mildura's historic houses that still stand today.



## 1 Old Mildura Water Tower

### Corner Tenth Street & Orange Avenue

Start at the old Water Tower located at the corner of Tenth Street and Orange Avenue. This Water Tower, one of several peppered around the district was opened in 1957 and has the capacity to store 2.7 megalitres of water. There is no shortage of parking in this area but there is a car park in Orange Avenue, between Ninth and Tenth Streets should you require it.



## 2 The Original Guide Hall

### 158 Orange Avenue

Between Tenth and Eleventh Street on the left is the Mildura Guide Hall. Originally the building was home to the Seventh Day Adventists and when they relocated, the Lutheran Church moved in. In 1966, the two Lutheran congregations in Mildura merged as one and having instantly outgrown this site, they moved from here to their current church on the corner of Ninth Street and Olive Avenue.



## 3 Valletta

### 223 Eleventh Street

At the end of Orange Avenue, the walk intersects with Eleventh Street and turns to the left. A few houses down, on the far side of the road, at the corner of Henderson Place, is the historic house, Valletta.

Built in 1891, Valletta has some interesting connections to Rio Vista and the Chaffey brothers. The internal woodwork was the responsibility of Mr. Kells, who also worked on the interior of Rio Vista. It's also believed that D.T Edmunds, who supervised the construction of Rio Vista, designed the house, which still has many of its original features. Henderson Place still has two ornamental pillars erected by the original owners. This was once the entrance to their property but is now a public street.



#### 4 Mildura Primary School

At the corner of Twelfth Street and San Mateo Avenue is Mildura Primary School, which opened on September 13, 1890 with 300 eager students despite the building not yet being complete. The school was officially opened a year later, once all the work was finished.

Since then the building has been added to and renovated, but parts of the original school building can still be seen.



#### 5 Proudfoot House

##### 99 San Mateo Avenue

Turn around, make your way along San Mateo Avenue to Ninth Street. Pause on the corner at No. 99 and take the time to view Proudfoot House. Built in 1891, it is a fine example of a late Victorian brick dwelling, with its posted veranda and cast iron lace work. The original owner was John Proudfoot, a produce store owner, but for many years it acted as Presbyterian manse, before moving into private hands and becoming an antique shop.



#### 6 Workers Cottages

At Ninth Street, turn left and a block further down turn left again into Magnolia Avenue. There are still a number of attractive homes in this street as well as weatherboard cottages but many have been lost or relocated over the years.

Turn right into Eleventh Street and a short walk will bring you to Lemon Avenue.



Few streets in Mildura have retained their identity as well as Lemon Avenue and a stroll down here offers a lovely indication of what Mildura must have looked like in the early 20th Century.

This area was mainly occupied by tradespeople and three of the houses along Lemon Avenue pre-date 1900 and another fourteen are pre World War 1.



Continue to Eighth Street, number 50 is currently a backpacker's hostel but its original owner was local store owner AC Pugsley, who commissioned the home in 1902.



#### 7 Kathleen Kelly Kindergarten

##### 45 Lemon Avenue

Turn left into Eighth Street and walk past the Kathleen Kelly Kindergarten. Kathleen Kelly was a member of the Bowring family, pioneers and merchants in Mildura, and the kindergarten was originally opened as a free kindergarten for children living on the riverbank. On the corner of Eighth Street and Orange Avenue we find the new Post Office, built in 1998.





## 8 Mildura Settlers Club

### 110 Eighth Street

Across from the Post Office is the rather grand looking Mildura Settlers Club, or the 'Setts' as it's commonly known. It has been on this site since 1893, originally as a members only club but today it's a bar, distillery, office space with meeting venues and is open to everyone.



## 9 Old Methodist Parsonage

### 77 Orange Avenue

From here, progress along Orange Avenue toward the water tower and you will find the original Methodist Parsonage which was designed by William Sheridan and built in 1892. It's an unusual example of a Tudoresque Victorian brick villa and has a number of decorative details of note.

From here you can see the water tower where you left your car.

For tens of thousands of years, this site was an oasis for the many indigenous groups who travelled along the river and through their country. It then became a pastoral lease in 1847 and an irrigation settlement in 1887. As with all country towns, the streetscape changes over time. Mildura too has grown and changed with the times. Today, Mildura is a bustling, modern city. The sites on this walk are in an area which was part of the Chaffey Brothers original plan. Some structures are new and some remain original, many repurposed from their original intent but all telling a story of a country town's journey through the years.