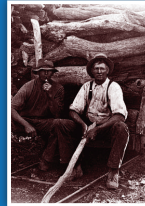
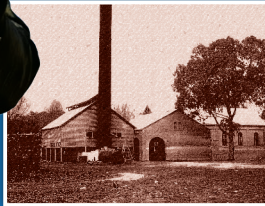




THE CHAFFEY TRAIL

Mildura — Australia's First Irrigation Colony

Trace the story of how Mildura became an irrigated oasis in the midst of an arid land



The Chaffey vision unfolds

1847 the Jamieson brothers took up land for pastoral use, after a licence had been granted. In 1858 this site 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. Deakin was appointed by the Victorian Parliament to visit America on a fact finding mission.

The Chaffeys' model irrigation settlement impressed Deakin, who in turn impressed them with the potential for irrigation from the Murray River in Australia.

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

The Chaffeys adapted the plan of Ontario to the present site of Mildura. They 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.

The Chaffey brothers wanted to make Mildura a vibrant community.

Their plans included many visionary concepts: an agricultural college was needed and to finance this, one property in 15 was designated as college lease land now providing funding for schools. Prominent locations were made available for churches and facilities for clubs were encouraged. Parks and town transport were considered – together this gave us the beautiful centre plantation of Deakin Avenue, surely one of the finest thoroughfares in Australia. Lanes and streets were laid out in all the town planning making Mildura the beautiful place it is.

Now you can trace the development of Mildura through the Chaffey Trail. A video production of the 'Chaffey Trail' can be viewed in the theatrette at the Mildura Visitor Information Centre 180 Deakin Avenue, from 9am – 4.30pm daily ☎ 03 5018 8380 for more information.

The story is available in Braille and for Deaf and hearing impaired. Please enquire at the Mildura Information Centre for the Braille Book or Open Mi downloads for Android and iOS (Apple) Smart Phones and QR codes. Visit our website.

Dates of Significance:

21 October 1886 - Mildura - Chaffey Brothers signed the Agreement with the Victorian Government.

31 May 1887 - Mildura - Indenture signed between Chaffeys, Victorian Government and the Queen.

14 February 1887 - Renmark - Agreement signed to establish Renmark Irrigation Colony.

30 May 1888 - Renmark - Indenture signed between Chaffey's, South Australian Government and the Queen.

THE CHAFFEY TRAIL

Mildura ~ Australia's First Irrigation Colony



1. Mildura Station Homestead - 278 Cureton Avenue **2. Mildura Station Homestead Cemetery - Cureton Avenue**

Mildura Station Homestead precinct is a reconstruction of the property 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 Mildura's first cemetery includes graves of early pioneers and members of the Chaffey family. ☎ 03 5018 8330.



3. Rio Vista - 199 Cureton Avenue

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', reflects the Californian influences found in the Queen Anne style house. Open daily 10am to 5pm. Closed Good Friday & Christmas Day. Anzac Day open 1pm to 5pm. Free Entry. (03) 50188330



4. Lock 11 & Mildura Weir - Hugh King Drive

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.



5. Mildura Wharf / Port of Mildura - Hugh King Drive

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.

Daily river cruises available. ☎ 03 5023 2200



6. Mildura Grand Hotel - Cnr 7th Street & Langtree Avenue

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. ☎ 03 5023 0511



7. Psyche Pumps / King's Billabong - Psyche Bend Road

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. King's Billabong is a wetland reserve and bird sanctuary with bird hides. Psyche Pumps open Tuesday & Thursday from 1pm to 4pm and Sundays 9:30am to 12pm. For operating days and times ☎ 03 5018 8380

Trace the story with a self guided tour of key heritage sites and buildings of the region



8. Chateau Mildura - 191 Belar Avenue

In 1888 The Chaffey's 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 Monday-Saturday 10am - 4pm. ☎ 03 5024 5901



9. Merbein - International Drive

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.



10. 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.

Cost of Admission \$6 Adults & \$5 concession. Open Wednesday and Friday & Saturday 2 - 4pm ☎ 0427 113 090



11. Mildura Club - Cnr 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.

Tours available: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10am-12 noon.
Cost: \$10 includes a beer/wine/soft drink or Tea/Coffee in the historic bar. Bookings essential ☎ 03 50231006



12. Big Lizzie - Barclay Square, Calder Highway, Red Cliffs

Apart from its size, the most amazing feature of Big Lizzie are 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. It was returned to Red Cliffs for the Golden Jubilee in 1971.



13. Renmark - The Chaffey Trail Continues

Visit Renmark Tourist Centre and continue this amazing history trail of Australia's first irrigation settlements. Established in 1887.

