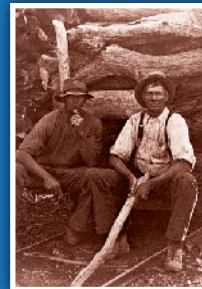




THE CHAFFEY TRAIL

Mildura ~ Australia's First Irrigation Colony

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



In 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 Chaffey's 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 Chaffey's 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 theatre 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 Chaffey Brothers signed the agreement with the Victorian Government
31 May 1887 Indenture signed between Chaffey's, Victorian Government and the Queen

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

1. Mildura Station Homestead

278 Cureton Avenue (GPS Co-ordinates X=606,800 Y=6,218,427)
Situated on the original site in Cureton Avenue. This is a recreation of the first Mildura Station established by the Jamieson brothers in 1847, later purchased by the Chaffey's.
Open 7 days from 10am to 4pm. ☎ 03 5018 8380

2. Mildura Homestead Cemetery

Cureton Avenue (GPS Co-ordinates X=606,873 Y=6,218,742)
Mildura's earliest cemetery includes graves of some early pioneers and members of the Chaffey family.

3. Rio Vista Historic House

199 Cureton Avenue
(GPS Co-ordinates X=606,790 Y=6,217,569)
Rio Vista was the home of WB Chaffey and his family. It is Spanish for 'River View'. Free Entry. Open 10am to 5pm daily. Anzac Day 1pm to 5pm. Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day. Mildura Arts Centre ☎ 03 5018 8330

4. Lock 11 & Mildura Weir

Hugh King Drive
(GPS Co-ordinates X=607,372 Y=6,217,741)
The Chaffey's 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
(GPS Co-ordinates X=607,501 Y=6,216,885)
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
(GPS Co-ordinates X=607,218 Y=6,216,945)
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
(GPS Co-ordinates X=613,423 Y=6,208,964)
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 10:30am to 12pm. For operating days and times ☎ 03 5018 8380

8. Chateau Mildura

Belar Avenue
(GPS Co-ordinates X=610,854 Y=6,210,248)
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. ☎ 03 5024 5901

9. Merbein

International Drive (GPS Co-ordinates X=599,612 Y=6,218,500)
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.



OpenMi
Tours



* INTERPRETIVE SIGNS ARE AT EACH SITE TO PROVIDE A GREATER STORY



Mildura Rural City Council

www.thechaffeytrail.com.au

For more information please email chaffey.trail@mildura.vic.gov.au
For more history information please email mildurahistorical@gmail.com