



Our repairs and maintenance work at the Court House has finished and we have begun working bees preparing to reopen the museum. Come along to our next Open Day, October 1st and have a look around. We may not be fully unpacked and sorted but we plan to welcome visitors. At 2pm, 26th Sept. we have our AGM and all are welcome to come and get enthused on some local history projects as we work preparing for Red Cliffs Centenary.

Another article about our new beginnings as a community this one from the Weekly Times. *'The party which travelled through Victoria last week on the "Reso" train visited Red Cliffs settlement on, August 31. After lunch the tourists were formally welcomed to Red Cliffs by Mr Leigh Neylon, Engineer-in-Charge of the irrigation works. He said that Red Cliffs had done in two years what Mildura had taken 35 years to do... Sir Robert Gibson, in response, said the feelings of the visitors were those of wonder for the work that had been done by the officers of the State, and admiration for the returned men...The party later saw tree-pulling, with horse and hand machines, and went to the pumps, three miles from Red Cliffs township. On the way they passed blocks in various stages of preparation for planting or irrigation. On some of them young women were seen helping. "It's soldiers' women folk who make settlements like these possible," exclaimed a tourist. At the pumps the 'Boss' Chaffey told the visitors to push Mildura for all they were worth when they returned. The tourists gave three cheers for the soldier settlers and Mildura. They left for Kerang.'* Sat 9 Sept 1922



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Photos RC&DHS Collection

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Monthly Newsletter of the Red Cliffs & District Historical Society

New Beginnings

September 2017

In September we see all around the beginning of Spring.

So we have selected to share some beginnings, changes and fresh starts from the past and today.

Red Cliffs was a 'new beginning' for over 700, WW1 returned soldiers. A reason to put the horrors of war behind and plan to make a great future together. Some were newly married and starting family life. The Historical Society have plans to honour



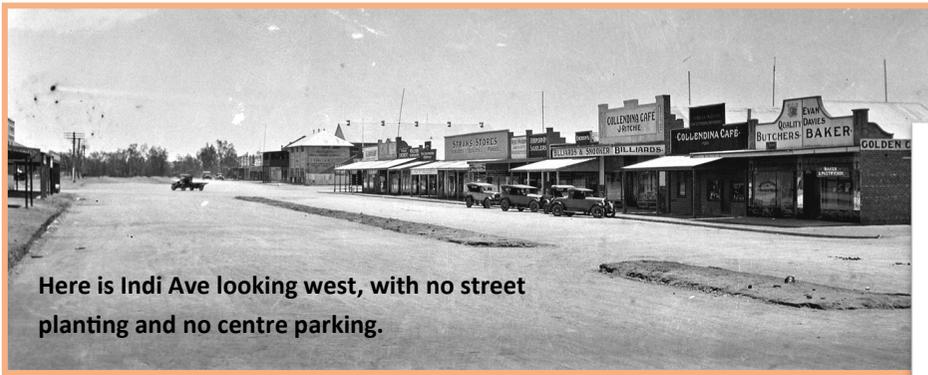
First Watering, Block 229
 photo W M Graham

these first settlers by displaying a photo of each one complete with their name and block number. We already have almost 400 first settler photos in our collection but in the next 12 months will be calling for the further 300 more we need. Using these photos we will produce 5 banners creating a visual tribute to our first blockies - a Wall of Honour, within our museum at the Court House. A list of names will be displayed for those we are seeking photos for. This may be an impossible task but with your help we will make a good effort.

BLOCKS FOR A THOUSAND SOLDIERS W.B. Periam, from the Age.

'The largest and in some respects the most attractive project is at Red Cliffs, about ten miles up the river from Mildura, where preparations are being made to place a thousand men on 15-acre, blocks for fruit growing. The land was recently acquired by the Government from the debenture holders of Chaffey Bros. Ltd. and is undoubtedly the finest continuous piece of horticultural land in the district, and perhaps in Australia. ...the site would have been chosen for the original Mildura but for its height above the summer level of the river, which was too great for the pumps of those days. What the original Mildura settlers lost...the soldier settlers will gain, and there is a general satisfaction in the district that such a choice spot should fall into the hands of those who so richly deserve it.'

The Cultivator, 4 Sept 1920; Background photo: hand clearing



Here is Indi Ave looking west, with no street planting and no centre parking.

We read in Sun Daily Aug 30 2017 that 50 years ago the Shire Council removed the sugar gums in Indi Ave. pictured at right in their prime. Now we enjoy the beauty of vines, the plant which progressed our town for nearly 100 years.



Changes around town...

What do you remember about the street plantings of the past? Remember the beautiful irises? Would you be pleased to see more planter boxes?



Photo Wilf Henty.

Argus, Tues 12 Sept 1922

'It is expected that large quantities of telephone material will be available shortly. Some hundreds of persons desire to have the telephone installed.

Some feeling exists in Red Cliffs regarding the decision of the Victorian Railways Commissioners to shift the station site some hundreds of yards south of the present position. Holders of township blocks in the vicinity of the present site are voicing their grievances with regard to the matter.'

The November storms are creating a new roof line around town complete with scaffolding.

Here is a Red Cliffs icon clothed in its scaffolding about 1924/25.

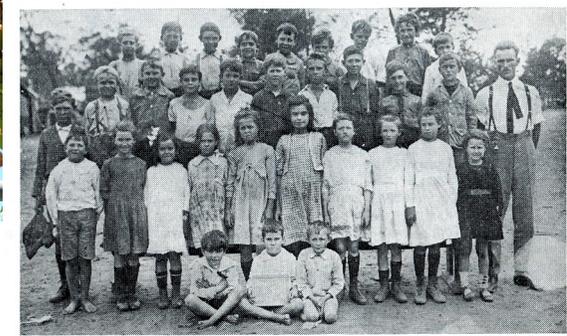
This is a photo of the first Red Cliffs school in the woolshed, located today within the old Co-op buildings. Would those children even imagine the school of today?

Notice the changes currently happening at the Secondary College? Can't wait to see how great they will be.

Do you know the beginnings of your school, church, business, organisation or sporting club? We are interested and we encourage you to seek out memories, memorabilia and photos so that a record is kept and ready for display for 2021.

Another new beginning...

we look forward to contributing to Red Cliffs' new newspaper, The Cliffs.



One of the first photos taken of Red Cliffs children who attended school at the Woolshed.

Back row: L. Norris, X. D. Menhennett, X. C. Scott, B. Pollock, L. Jones, S. Harper, B. Bell.
 Second row: J. Oxley, B. Harper, X. T. Mason, K. Donald, H. Walker, R. Turner, F. Menhennett, A. Delora, J. Bailey, Mr. T. Bennett, Head Master.
 Third row: C. Mustey, S. Delora, M. Bell, P. Jones, J. Pender, M. Chester, E. Fitzgerald, M. Channing, J. Brown, D. Walker.
 Front row: G. Pollock, L. Bell, E. Bailey.



Big Lizzie will feature in our Newsletter next month. It will be 100 years since she clanked through this area on her way North.

We will recognize her in a display at the **TRACS Annual Vintage Tractor Pull on Sat 7th October on Wilga Road**. We also plan to have Little Lizzie on show there in our marquee.

On **14th October at 1.30pm the Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference** will unveil a plaque in Barclay Square honouring Frank Bottrill and his grand machine.