

Red Cliffs Historical Walk

1. A. S. Kenyon Library, Red Cliffs

The very first library was run by volunteers in Tent Town in 1921. A more permanent library was built in the pool grounds. The library moved to its current location in 1961 as part of the Civic Centre development. A new library was built on the same site, keeping the outside façade to complement surrounding buildings. It was completed in 2009. Three times the size of the previous library, there is a collection of local history items that can be viewed within the library.

Q. 1 What year was the new library completed?



2. Big Lizzie

Big Lizzie is a Prime Mover Tractor which was designed and built, by Frank Bottrill, in 1915 to replace camel trains which carried wool and other heavy loads on sandy terrain. In 1916 it left Melbourne, with two trailers, bound for Broken Hill, after a long journey Big Lizzie arrived in Mildura to discover the Murray River flooded and impassable. Bottrill began to clear bush, around 6,000 hectares (15,000 acres), in preparation for an irrigated soldier settlement for World War 1 veterans in Red Cliffs.

Q. 2 How heavy is Big Lizzie?



3. Stewart Memorial

This memorial commemorates Percy Stewart, who was one of the original organisers of the Victorian Farmers' Union and a staunch supporter for farming interests. He had a farm in Carwarp, was a serving state MP from 1917 and was the federal MP for Wimmera from 1919 until his death in 1931. He was also one of five original members of the Federal parliamentary Country Party and one of three managers appointed to look after its interests.

Q. 3 What Day in August was the memorial unveiled?



4. German Howitzer Cannon

The Howitzer Cannon is a rare Krupp 21cm Versuchsmorser Nr 3M1907 and is one of only eight produced and is believed to be the last one on display in the world. Each shell weighed around 120kg and had a maximum range of 7kms. The surrendered cannon was donated to the community of Red Cliffs following the end of World War 1. The unveiling ceremony was held on ANZAC Day in 1928.

Q. 4 What were the names of the two chairmen who unveiled the Howitzer cannon?



5. Post Office

While Red Cliffs was being established, mail was thrown from the train, in 1921 a temporary post office was erected in Tent Town. The post office that stands today was built in 1925, while construction was taking place post office was set up on Ilex Street.

Q. 5 What is the post code on the plaque on the front of the post office?



6. War Memorial, Honour Roll & Aleppo Pine

The memorial to remember those who died in service in World War 1 was dedicated in 1931. Later, behind the cenotaph the Honour roll was erected, with over 1000 personnel inscribed from the Sunraysia area who have served. This was unveiled by Ken Wright in 1992. The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus Brutia*) is from the original lone pine on Gallipoli, it was grown in the Jubilee year, 1965 and planted in memory of departed comrades.

Q. 6 Who were the three people who unveiled and dedicated the honour roll in 1992?



7. Water Tower

The mural on the water tower was completed by Broken Hill Artist, Clark Barrett and students from the Red Cliffs Secondary College in 1991. Taking over 12 months from conception to completion, the project was funded by our local branch of the Australian Dried Fruits Association.

Q. 7 What four directions signs are painted on the water tower?



8. Turkish Field Gun & Gun

The 75MM Turkish Field Gun, made in 1910. It was captured by the Australian Light Horse during the Palestine Conflict in 1918. It was restored by the Red Cliffs Historical Society.

Q. 8 What year was the gun restored?



9. Olive Trees

Memorial olive trees planted beside the Turkish field gun. The inscription reads: 'In Memory of the Greek Servicemen & Civilians together with the Australian Armed Forces for their courage & sacrifice. Greece & Crete Campaigns 1941'.

Q. 9 How many olive trees are there?



10. RSL Military Museum

Opened in 1997, the Red Cliffs Military Museum houses a wide collection of memorabilia and artifacts from the Boer War to Vietnam. There is a wide range of material in the military library and the collection continues to grow. Volunteer run, the museum is open on the first Sunday of each month from 10am-4pm.

Q. 10 What year was the Foundation Stone laid?



11. A.S. Kenyon Library, Red Cliffs

Our library is named after A.S. Kenyon (1867-1943), he was an engineer, ethnologist, and historian, was born in Homebush, Vitoria. In 1918 Kenyon was asked to report on land settlement for the dried fruits industry, needed for the placement of former soldiers. He recommended Red Cliffs, the extension of Merbein and the establishment of what was to become the Robinvale irrigation District, all along the Murray River. The portrait of Kenyon by Graham Thorley hangs in the library today.

Terry Anderson (1926-2005), a local descendant of one of the original soldier settlement families, was a community minded person and was given the honour of having the meeting room named

after him. It was a push by Terry to have the Kenyon portrait returned after restoration that ensured it be returned to the library in 2004, not long before his death.

Q. 11 When was A. S. Kenyon born?



Further reading on local history can be found within the A. S Kenyon Library, Red Cliffs Historical Society, and the Red Cliffs Military Museum.

Thank you to the Red Cliffs Historical Society for information on our local history. Visitors are welcome to visit the Society on the first Sunday of each month between 11am-1pm.