

This community plan includes the areas known as Westcliffs, Nursery Ridge, Cliffside, Stewart, Karadoc, Sunnycliffs and Yatpool.





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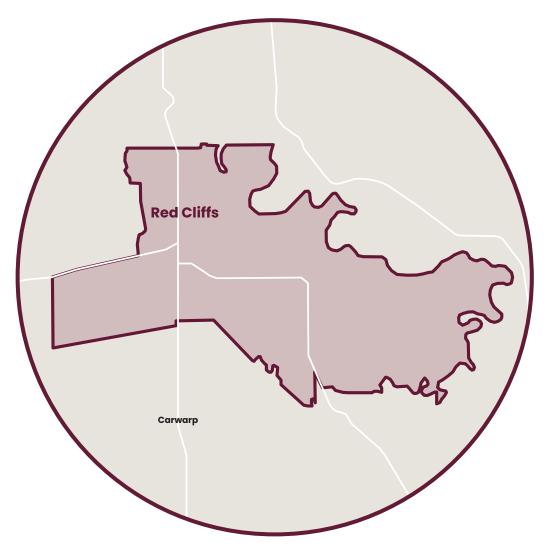
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# Our story

Red Cliffs is the southern gateway to Sunraysia on the Calder Highway, 544 kilometres north-west of Melbourne.

A thriving community, with a population of 6138 (2021) it borders the Murray River to the east, the vast Murray Sunset National Park to the west, the Hattah Kulkyne National Park to the south and Mildura lies 16 kilometres to its north.



6138

2021 estimated resident population

2016 estimated resident population

2.4%

Born overseas



60 years

Average age



# Red Cliffs Community over time

There has been community here for thousands of years. The extensive mussel middens at the cliffs are evidence that First Nations people met here in community to fish and feast. The river and associated waterways ensued plentiful bird and animal life. This place had abundant quandong trees, yam bulbs and other bush foods as well as the tough belar trees essential for strong tools. Red Gums along the river have scars to indicate river craft and utensils were manufactured for the community living of the local people.

In 1887, Mildura was planned as an irrigation settlement community. This included Red Cliffs but it was not cleared for settlement at this time. The railway came through from Melbourne to Mildura in 1903. Small communities like Yatpool and Carwarp established with dryland farms, centred around their railway siding, local hall and stores.



After World War One the Red Cliffs area was acquired for the settlement of returned soldiers. This began a new venture in community under the organisation of the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission. At first it was a largely male community, organised military style in work gangs, surveying and clearing the Mallee bush. The workers lived in temporary buildings and tents with a mess providing meals and a few amenities. Soon women and children were part of the community and returned servicemen came from around Australia and from many nations to work here and apply for their own block. It was a multinational community with some French, Italians, New Zealanders, Scandinavians and a large group from the British Isles: Scots, Welsh, Irish and English.



The common link was their shared war experience and the hope for a future in a community created anew by themselves. The first town was set up on the west of the railway from May 1920. It had rough-built buildings for shops, a Post Office, boarding and dining rooms, banks, a doctor, a policeman, a picture theatre, a billiard room, a Druids Lodge and even a shooting gallery. The main recreation hall was used as a school and church. The Tent Town leases terminated on 30 June 1922.

The permanent town was planned with much thought with a grid plan as in Mildura and around a town square like many European villages. By 1921 the current town allotments were for sale and being built upon, beginning the community centre for Red Cliffs. But the building of community was already there. Rough living with communal eating, working in gangs and the women coping together

with pioneer conditions was creating friendship bonds and lifetime relationships.

The first substantial public building was Diggerland a picture theatre and public hall. This was a cooperative venture with locals investing in shares in Diggerland Ltd. Soon the community were creating organisations to support the development of the district. This led to a meeting in Diggerland in February 1923 to discuss forming a representative organisation for the benefit of the whole community – town and district.

This meeting formed the Red Cliffs Progress Association and also inspired a wish-list for the first community plan.

Over the next 100 years Red Cliffs retained that spirit of community, camaraderie, self-help, support and care. Most of our public amenities were collectively lobbied for and built by working bees and donation. We established churches, lodges, sporting clubs, musical and dramatic groups, an RSL Branch, women's groups, schools, kindergarten, a child health centre, a library, doctor and dental facilities, a hospital, a nature study society and a first rate swimming baths.



Our agricultural beginnings in dried fruit carried through more than 75 years as the centre of our economy. These relied on cooperative processing and sharing of knowledge and ideas for the good of all. Our community came up with ideas to combat frost damage, rallied in times of flood, and on numerous occasions after severe storms. We showed compassion in times of tragedy and loss, fed those in hardship, cared to advocate for change of regulations when necessary or to protect our environment.



The district has changed and Red Cliffs is served by a wider community for most facilities and services. Many dried fruit blocks have diversified to other industries. Channelled irrigation supply ceased in 2016. Land near to the town has been subdivided for housing. The local shopping and commercial options have greatly changed. Red Cliffs is a breakfast stop for the many workers commuting each morning and a temporary home for the seasonal workers from overseas. These changes create challenges as reflected in our community survey responses.

Our previous community plan had the centenary as its central motivation. COVID-19 threatened the celebration plans but the organisers creatively made changes and the four-day celebration in April 2022 saw many return. We all participated, enjoyed and shared memories together with others who call Red Cliffs home. The spirit of community was very evident in all aspects of the centenary events. Our centenary book won the 2022 Victorian Community History Project Award and the centenary event received local Australia Day community awards. Now we step into the future Red Cliffs together with new aspirations and plans for our community. This is our Community Plan for 2023-2028.

Courtesy of Red Cliffs & District Historical Society.







# Purpose of the Red Cliffs Community Plan

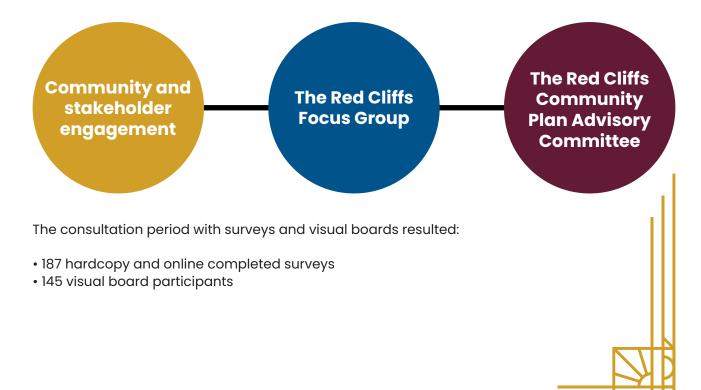
Community planning is about Red Cliffs community members coming together to shape the future, creating a greater ownership of the plan that affect the grea and empowers local people to play an active role in what happens in the town in which they live. The success of the community plan relies on the commitment and participation of the community.

Building on the Red Cliffs Community Plan 2016-2021, in 2022 we started the process of renewing the plan to reflect our community's values, aspirations and priorities for the next five years. The process involved residents identifying assets of their community and what they appreciated about living in the region. The Red Cliffs & Carwarp Community Plan 2023-2028 sets out the five-year vision for Red Cliffs and Carwarp based on the aspirations of our community and the priorities they told us were important.

The Red Cliffs Community Plan Advisory Committee has taken the lead in reviewing and renewing the plan after community consultation through a community survey and picture boards assisted by Mildura Rural City Council. At these consultations the planning process was explained, during which the key areas from the previous plan were shared and discussed. This included ideas, priorities, and projects.

# How we engaged

Community and stakeholder engagement was central to everything we did in developing this plan. It not only informed our priorities, but it kept us on track throughout the whole process. Below is a summary of the engagement schedule we used to develop the plan.



## Our vision

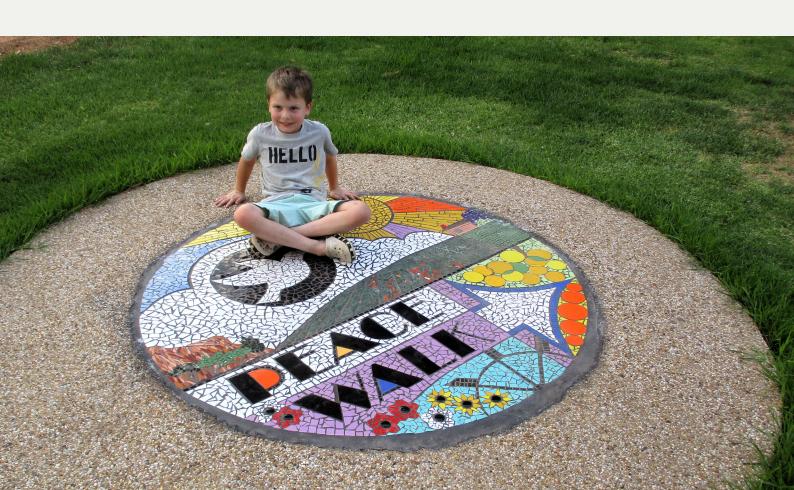
To create a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community where all residents can thrive.

## Mission statement

The purpose of our community plan is to identify the needs and priorities of our community, and to develop a shared vision for the future. Through collaboration and engagement, we will work together to create a plan of action that addresses local problems and opportunities, and guides planning and land use management.

# Values

We believe that by working together, we can create a better future for all residents.



# Major achievements from the Red Cliffs Community Plan 2016-2021

#### 1. Replacing the iconic Red Cliffs Boardwalk on the Murray River

This structure is a much loved and well used facility by locals and tourists. It became a focus and passion of the community to ensure its replacement and to reinstate the significance and utilisation of the facility and the surroundings.

#### 2. Red Cliffs Barclay Square upgrade

The Lions and Rotary Clubs of Red Cliffs provided the community the projects they had proposed for Barclay Square. The Lions Club project included the extension of the existing rotunda shelter roof line and the addition of a BBQ, tables and chairs. The Rotary Club's project was installing adult exercise equipment.

#### 3. Red Cliffs Centenary Celebrations

The Red Cliffs irrigation district (including Cardross) was officially opened in November 1921. The centenary of this event was celebrated with a back-to long weekend of fun and catching up for everyone who has ever felt a connection to the place. The Centenary publication 'Red Cliffs Recollections' won the 2022 Victorian Community History Award.

#### 4. Establishing the Red Cliffs Men's Shed

Providing a welcoming environment for men from Red Cliffs and surrounds who are from all walks of life where they can socialise and enjoy a wide range of activities.

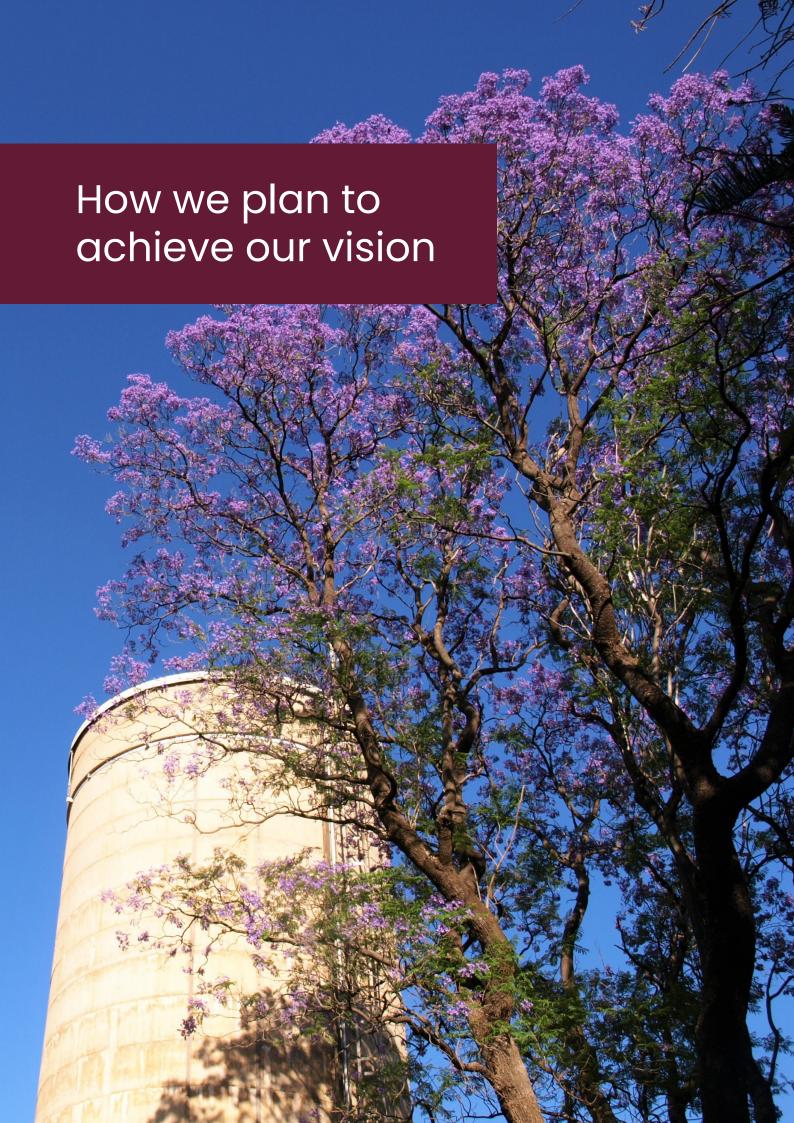
#### 5. Red Cliffs beautification

Red Cliffs town centre represents more than just a geographical point, it is also the heart and soul of the community. With the establishment of the Peacewalk, mosaics, story posts, town gardens, artificial grass and planter boxes, street benches and bin covers there has been a transformation into a vibrant space, generating a deep sense of community pride.

#### 6. Promoting our Community

The Lion's Club updated the signage in the tourist park entry 'Welcome to Red Cliffs' and provided covered picnic facilities beside it.

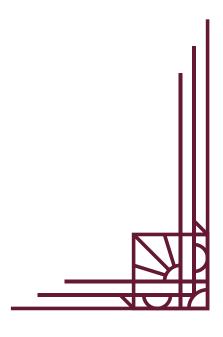
A screen showing a weekly news segment of Red Cliffs events was installed in the newsagent's window, this was supported and managed by the Rotary Club.



## Safety

**Objective:** A safe community that fosters a sense of belonging and community pride.

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Advocate to reduce the incidence and impact of crime, and keep the community safe through initiatives, programs and partnerships.	Work with Mildura police on Community Based Policing projects. Red Cliffs community to look at opportunities to work in collaboration on projects. E.g. Establish Neighborhood Watch & Safety Houses programs.	Mildura & Red Cliffs Police, Council, Community Futures unit, Neighborhood Watch, Red Cliffs Focus group, Red Cliffs School, Red Cliffs Community resource centre.	Council Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 Council Plan 2021- 2025 - Advocacy Plan Council CCTV Program Municipality Council Neighborhood safer place plan.
Address the traffic concerns of the community while maintaining good levels of accessibility for local residents, local businesses and emergency services e.g., Traffic lights, roundabouts installation and pedestrian crossings.	Work with Council Road Safety Officer and Regional Roads Victoria.	Council Road Safety Officer, Regional Roads Victoria Red Cliffs Schools, Mildura & Red Cliffs Police, Red Cliffs Focus group.	<ul> <li>Council Road Safety Strategy</li> <li>Community Safety plan 2015-2020</li> <li>Council Plan 2021- 2025</li> </ul>



## Township Improvements

**Objective:** Creating a clean accessible town, encouraging development of small businesses.

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Adopting universal design principles throughout the community e.g. upgrade, or new footpath, ramp installation.	Work with Council Works & Infrastructure Department and Disability Access Advisory Committee	Mildura Council Engineering, DAAC, Red Cliff Focus group, Red Cliffs Community, Council Community Development department.	<ul> <li>Council Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2014 -2018</li> <li>Council Plan 2021 -2025</li> <li>Changing Places</li> </ul>
Investigate and assess the upgrading, replacement and/or new installation of public toilets.	Work with Council Facility Services Team, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community Consultation	Council Facility Services Team, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Red Cliffs Community, Parks Victoria.	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2021– 2025</li> <li>Mildura Public Toilet Strategy</li> <li>Mildura Public Toilet Toolkit</li> <li>Quandong Park Masterplan 2020</li> <li>Changing Places</li> </ul>
Examine a viable business model to encourage commercial business diversity e.g. restaurants, take away.	<ul> <li>Investigate opportunity for creating a Business Plan for Red Cliffs CBD</li> <li>Establish a community working group to develop ideas, methods and public community grants available in attracting and retaining new business opportunities.</li> </ul>	Community Development Team, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, market committee, Mildura Development Corporation.	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2021– 2025</li> <li>Council Community Vision 2021–2040</li> <li>Council Visitor Servicing Strategy 2021–2025</li> </ul>
Inspire an act of civic pride working together as a community to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.	<ul> <li>Identify areas and groups to create a program for regular clean up days.</li> <li>Investigate programs for roadside and public space clean ups.</li> <li>Support Council to implement ongoing green waste collection.</li> <li>Provide community education on how to use Snap, Send and Solve regarding illegal dumping of rubbish, overgrown trees, etc.</li> <li>Engage community in creating new ideas, opportunities and projects that improve the appearance and asset preservation within the township and empower community to take action.</li> </ul>	Red Cliffs Focus Group and Community, Council's Environmental Sustainability Unit, Parks & Gardens, Waste Services and Landcare	Council Environmental Education Plan 2020–2024 Council Environmental Sustainability Report 2020–2021 Council Litter and Illegal Dumping Strategy 2020–2025 Council Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022–2026 Coiuncil Invasive Plants and Animals Plan 2020–2024 Council Vegetation Management Plan 2020–2024 Council Parks and Waste Services Environmental Education Plan 2020–2024

## Advocacy

**Objective:** Using the Red Cliffs 'Community Spirit' to be resilient and diverse.

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Advocate in recruiting and retaining health practitioners.	Work with Sunraysia Community Health Services and Mildura Base Public Hospital and Jacaranda Village on ideas and possibilities.	Mildura Base Public Hospital, Sunraysia Community Health Services, Mildura Rural City Council, Community Futures Department, Focus group, Loddon Mallee Health Unit, Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Murray PHN, The Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre.	Council Community     Health & Wellbeing     Plan 2021-2025     Council Plan 2021- 2025 – Advocacy Plan
Campaign for implementing integrated health and aged care services.	Work with Sunraysia Community Health Services and Mildura Base Public Hospital, Jacaranda Village	Mildura Base Public Hospital, Sunraysia Community Health Services, Mildura Rural City Council, Community Futures Department, Focus group, Jacaranda Village, Department of Health, Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS), The Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre.	Council Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 Council Plan 2021- 2025 - Advocacy Plan Council Community Vision 2021-2040
Investigate     alternatives to bank     branch models that     would maintain or     improve banking     services and     accessibility in areas     where branches have     been closed.	Establish a community working group to investigate the different banking opportunities available to small towns e.g. Customer Owned Bank	Red Cliffs Focus Group, Council Community Futures Department, Community Groups, residents, The Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre.	Council Plan 2021– 2025 Council Community Vision 2021–2040
Support the establishment of a childcare centre.	Work with Red Cliffs Kindergarten, Red Cliffs Primary School, Red Cliffs East Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, MRCC Maternal and Child Health, Council Community Futures Department to investigate funding available.	Red Cliffs Kindergarten, Red Cliffs Primary School, Red Cliffs East Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, Council's Maternal and Child Health, Community Futures Department, Hands Up Mallee, Red Cliffs Church of Christ, Red Cliffs Community Playgroup.	Council Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 Council Plan 2021- 2025 Council Community Vision 2040 Municipal Early Years Plan 2020-2025 State of Mildura Rural City Children and Young People 2014 Report

Creating a     Family/Child Hub     incorporating an     extension/upgrade     to the current     Kindergarten and     Maternal Child Health     Centre	Explore opportunities for community use of the hub, to increase usage and meet the broad range of interests within Red Cliffs and surrounds	Red Cliffs Kindergarten, YMCA, DET, MRCC Early Years Services & Community Development, MRCC Maternal Child Health Service, Toy Library, Red Cliffs Families Project Team, Hands Up Mallee, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Red Cliffs Resource Centre & local schools.	Council Early Years     Infrastructure Plan     Hands Up Mallee Red     Cliffs Families Project     Outcome     Municipal Early Years     Plan (MEYP)
Investigate and improve public transport options.	<ul> <li>Consult with Public Transport Victoria on bus routes during their next review.</li> <li>Consult with Mildura Taxi companies regarding providing regular service to area.</li> <li>Rail integrated transport strategy</li> </ul>	Public Transport Victoria, Mildura Bus Lines, Regional Roads Victoria, Red Cliffs Community, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Mildura Taxis, City Taxis Sunraysia, Urcab Mildura, V-Line	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2021- 2025</li> <li>Council Community Vision 2021-2040</li> </ul>
Support participation and inclusion of CaLD communities in social, economic and cultural life	Consider inclusion of multicultural groups in local events/activities. Have on offer information on a range of local services and sporting clubs, etc.	Red Cliffs Focus Group, SMECC, AMES, Red Cliffs Resource Centre, Red Cliffs Church Groups, Red Cliffs Primary and Secondary Schools, Red Cliffs Lions Club, Red Cliffs Rotary, Mildura Rural City Council, Healthy Communities Department Council, residents.	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2021- 2025</li> <li>Council Community Vision 2021-2040</li> <li>Anti-Racism Strategy</li> <li>Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025</li> <li>Multicultural policy statement</li> </ul>
Build cultural awareness, understanding and respect between Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal community members.	<ul> <li>Recognise the traditional custodians of Red Cliffs and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the community, their heritage, culture and beliefs.</li> <li>Promote Aboriginal cultural celebrations that people of other cultures can be involved in</li> <li>Consider inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups in local events/activities</li> </ul>	Ngiwa Yarna Committee, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Red Cliffs Resource Centre, First People of the Millewa Mallee, MDAS, Mildura Rural City Council, Community Futures Department, residents, Red Cliffs Primary and Secondary Schools	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2021-2025</li> <li>Council Community Vision 2021-2040</li> <li>Anti-Racism Strategy</li> <li>The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</li> <li>Healthy and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025</li> </ul>

### Recreation

**Objective:** A vibrant, healthy and connected community shaped by energy and spirit

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Continue to implement walking trails e.g. Centenary Walk	Secure Councils support to develop and upgrade disused water channels and designated areas into walking trails.	Lower Murray Water, State and Federal Funding Grants, MRCC Road Safety Officer, Red Cliffs District Historical Society	Council Plan 2021-2025 Council's Asset Plan 2022-31 Regional Roads Victoria Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Parks Victoria Mildura Tracks and Trails Strategy July 2012 DECCA Loddon Mallee Climate Ready Plan
Explore the development for a public off leash dog park.	<ul> <li>Seek Council support for creating public spaces.</li> <li>Establish partnerships with appropriate services to investigate public community risk and grants.</li> <li>Investigate funding to support public off leash dog park.</li> </ul>	Council Recreation Staff, Community Development Staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community Groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders.	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2012- 2025</li> <li>Council Recreation Strategy 2021-31</li> <li>Mildura Public Open Space Strategy 2021</li> <li>Sunraysia Kennel Club</li> <li>Red Cliffs Caravan Park</li> </ul>
Support the establishment of a new community basketball court.	<ul> <li>Seek Council support for creating an outdoor community basketball court.</li> <li>Establish partnerships with appropriate services to investigate community risk.</li> <li>Provide support to appropriate grant applications by local groups and organisations.</li> </ul>	Council Recreation Staff, Community Development staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, Hands Up Mallee, Mallee Sports Assembly	Council Recreation Strategy 2021-31 Council Youth Engagement Strategy 2020-23 Council Community Vision 2021-2040
Support upgrade of existing or building of playgrounds.	<ul> <li>Seek Council support for creating new family playground for young people.</li> <li>Establish partnerships with appropriate services to investigate public community risk and grants.</li> </ul>	Council Recreation Staff, Community Development staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, Red Cliffs Kindergarten, Red Cliffs Primary Schools, Red Cliffs Secondary College, MRCC Parks and Garden, Red Cliffs Planning Team	<ul> <li>Council Recreation Strategy 2021-2031</li> <li>Council Youth Engagement Strategy 2020-23</li> <li>Council Community Vision 2021-2040</li> <li>Open Spaces Strategy 2021</li> </ul>

Investigate and support the creation and/or continuation of mountain bike /cycling trails E.g. trails linking nearby towns and riverfront.	Secure Council support to create, improve and upgrade local bike tracks and connecting to surrounding towns.	State and Federal Funding grants, Council Road Safety Officer, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Walks Victoria, Lower Murray Water	<ul> <li>Council Plan 2021- 2025</li> <li>Council Asset Plan 2022-2031</li> <li>Regional Roads Victoria</li> <li>Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</li> <li>Parks Victoria</li> <li>Mildura Tracks and Trails Strategy July 2012</li> </ul>
Encourage and support local community and family events e.g. Outdoor cinema, the Red Cliffs Market, historical celebrations.	Investigate economic development opportunities for the Red Cliffs Community	Community Development staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, Council Events unit, Red Cliffs Market Committee, Red Cliffs Historical Society, Red Cliffs Irymple RSL, Red Cliffs Historical Steam Railway	Council Events Strategy 2025 Council Plan 2021- 2025 Mildura Council grants State and Federal grant funding
Explore and support youth engagement activities or programs	<ul> <li>Investigate opportunities for youth activities and events throughout the Red Cliffs area.</li> <li>Improve accessibility for youth events.         Develop partnerships e.g. With Council Youth Services</li> <li>Investigate funding and grant opportunities for youth events.</li> </ul>	Council Youth Services, Victorian Police, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Local sporting groups, Homebase Hub, Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS), Hands Up Mallee (HUM), Sunraysia Community Health Service (SCHS), Mallee Accommodation and Support Program (MASP)	<ul> <li>Council Playground Strategy 2021-26 &amp; Recreation Strategy 2021-31</li> <li>Council Plan 2021- 2025 Advocacy Plan</li> <li>Council Youth Engagement Strategy 2020-2023</li> </ul>
Advocate the upgrade and improvement of the Skate Park	<ul> <li>Seek Council support for creating a safer outdoor skate park for young people in Red Cliffs.</li> <li>Establish partnerships with appropriate services to investigate public community risk.</li> <li>Provide support to appropriate grant applications by local groups and organisations.</li> </ul>	Council Recreation Staff, Community Development Staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders.	<ul> <li>Red Cliffs Focus Group</li> <li>Bendigo Bank Community Grants</li> <li>Council Youth Engagement Strategy 2020-2023</li> <li>Council Recreation Strategy 2021-2031</li> </ul>
Development of riverfront and boat ramp facilities	Undertake improvements and maintain the riverfront reserve and boat ramp including shade structure and seating, picnic/BBQ settings, toilet facilities, bins and small parking area.	NSW Crown land, Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR), DPI Fisheries, NSW Maritime, Wentworth Shire Council, Council Parks and Recreation Healthy Communities, DELWP	<ul> <li>Parks Victoria</li> <li>First People of the Millewa Mallee</li> <li>Wentworth Shire Council</li> <li>Mildura Rural City Council</li> </ul>

### Promotion and Tourism

**Objective:** Showcasing a town who are deeply proud of its history and its community spirit

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Advocate the need for a RV and/or caravan stopping site with a dumping station.	Secure Council support to build a new dumping point station in Red Cliffs     Undertake a feasibility/site upgrade assessment for Red Cliffs     Consult with stakeholders around dump points relocation of existing and potential new sites at Red Cliffs	Caravan and RV park operators in Red Cliffs, Mildura Visitor Information Centre, RV Association personnel, Mildura Rural City Council Community Futures Department, Mildura Regional Development, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community, internal and external stakeholders, residents, MRCC Facility Services Team, Vline. Red Cliffs Rotary Club, Red Cliffs Lions Club.	Council Plan 2021-2025 Council Community Vision 2021-2040 Mildura Public Toilet Strategy Mildura RV Caravan Camping Strategy Strategic Plan 2022 Tourism Signage Audit Review and Strategy 2022
Support and encourage new and existing tourism promotions and attractions.	<ul> <li>Investigate funding opportunities for media and creative advertising to promote Red Cliffs.</li> <li>Work with Red Cliffs Focus Group in creating and advertising tourism for the Red Cliffs area.</li> <li>Work with tourism subcommittee of Focus Group to develop ideas and methods in attracting tourists.</li> <li>Have on offer information on a range of local services and sporting clubs, etc</li> </ul>	Red Cliffs Focus Group, Mildura Visitor Information Centre, MRCC Community Futures Department, Community, internal and external stakeholders, residents, Chaffey Trail, Red Cliffs and District Historical Society.	Council Plan 2021-2025 Council Community Vision 2021-2040 Tourism Signage Audit Review and Strategy 2022 Mildura Council grants State and Federal grant funding
Investigate arts or cultural activities that enhance the vibrancy of the community.	Support the community art working group.     Support community to facilitate arts and cultural activities.	Red Cliffs Focus Group, MRCC Community Futures Department, MRCC Library Department, Lower Murray Water, Community, internal and external stakeholders, residents, KESO schools Officer, Workspace 3496, Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre, Red Cliffs Primary Schools & Red Cliffs Secondary College Arts Department.	Council Plan 2021-2025 Council Community Vision 2021-2040 City of Victoria Mural Toolkit Tourism Signage Audit Review and Strategy 2022 Mildura Council grants State and Federal grant funding Red Cliffs Club

## Environment

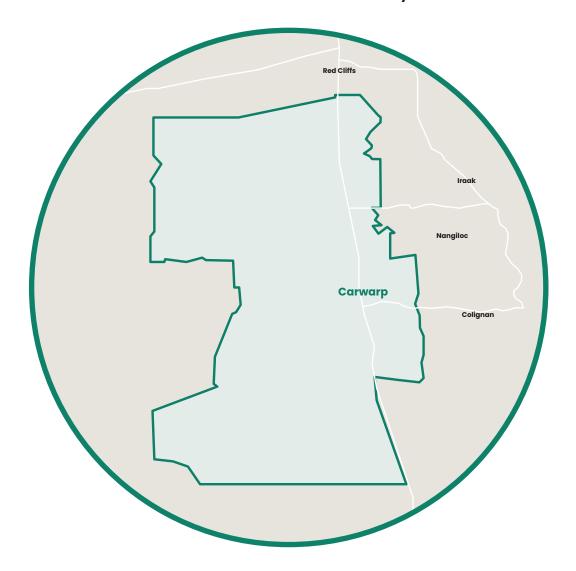
**Objective:** Protect and conserve local wildlife, habitat and biodiversity

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Propose the need for community gardens.	<ul> <li>Seek Council support for creating public spaces.</li> <li>Establish partnerships with appropriate services to investigate public community risk and grants.</li> <li>Investigate funding and grant to support community garden projects.</li> </ul>	Council Environmental staff, Community Development staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, MRCC Parks Services, Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre, Red Cliffs Historical Society	<ul> <li>Council Community Vision 2021-2040</li> <li>Council Environmental Sustainability Report 2020-2021</li> <li>Environmental Education Plan 2020-2024.</li> <li>Mildura Garden Club</li> <li>Red Cliffs Girl Guides and Scouts</li> <li>Red Cliffs Men's Shed</li> </ul>
Encourage community with the establishment of green belts, with more tree, native trees and shrub planting.	Identify opportunities for community involvement in National Tree Planting Day, and caring for the environment	Council Environmental staff, Red Cliffs Focus Group, community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, Landcare, Greening Mildura, Adapt Loddon/Mallee, Lower Murray Water, Red Cliffs Historical Society.	Council Vegetation Management Plan 2020-24 Council Parks and Waste Services Environmental Education Plan 2020-2024 DECCA Red Cliffs Girl Guides and Scouts Red Cliffs Primary and secondary schools Mallee Catchment Management Authority



# Carwarp

Carwarp is a rural locality in north-west Victoria, on the Calder Highway 16 kilometres south of Red Cliffs. It is also on the railway to Mildura.



Carwarp is recorded in 1847 as a 64,000 acre pastoral lease. It fronted the river and operated as a sheep station employing the First Nations custodians of this Country, named as Cowarp.

By 1853 it ran 10,000 sheep. In 1903 the railway was completed from Ouyen to Mildura and in 1905 an Act passed to supply water extending 30 miles from the Murray River. The area was surveyed for settlement from 1912 under the Closer Settlement Act. The Carwarp district still encompassed an area from the river in the east, to Carwarp West. But the settlement established at the railway siding took the name Carwarp and the eastern district

became Iraak and Karadoc. Sidings were also built at Nowingi, Boonoonar and Yatpool to service the neighbouring farming settlements. By 1913 Carwarp had a passenger platform. The train was the reliable method of travel with roads especially from Ouyen difficult by horse and impossible by early vehicles.

A reliable road from Hattah through Carwarp and Yatpool to Red Cliffs was not completed until 1930.

Many of the early settlers were from the United Kingdom and found the conditions very challenging. Land allocations were announced in 1912. Water was carted by rail.

The first years were desperate and the promise of a water supply by channel from the Murray, plus wood cutting and rabbit trapping kept the settlers going. The harsh life cultivated a supportive community. Progress Associations were formed at each siding. Yatpool and Carwarp actively advocated for water, a rail crossing and a school. 1914 was a drought year with poor crops. School at Yatpool commenced in 1915 in a private home.

In 1915 a pump was built at the cliffs (near the current boardwalk), to provide water to Yatpool and Carwarp. It was in operation by 1916 but proved to be unreliable and water supply was a continuing issue. Earthen channels were built, dams and bores sunk. A. S. Kenyon's successful design of an iron clad, ground 'tank' was tried and one is preserved at Nowingi. At Carwarp a level crossing, two railway residences and sheep and cattle yards were provided by 1917. School began in a private home, then in the Carwarp Hall. In 1924 they gained a Station Master and the school began on its own site. Many rural schools were dotted around. The last school, Carwarp, closed its doors in 1991.

The settlers were interested in exploring better farming methods. Percy Stewart trialled wheat varieties to improve crop yields and ran field days on his Carwarp farm which brought farmers from all over the Mallee. Carwarp Progress Association supported these endeavours and at a meeting in 1916 Percy Stewart inspired action. The creation of the Victorian Farmer's Union followed. Albert Allnutt was also a founding member. In 1919 a Carwarp Women's VFU branch was formed with 13 members. The VFU with other states farmers' groups became the Country Party and later the Nationals. Stewart entered State, then Federal politics. As Minister of Works and Railways he 'turned the first sod' for the first Parliament House in Canberra. Carwarp farmer, Albert Allnutt entered Victorian politics as Member for Mildura in 1927. He advocated for his community during the difficult 1930s and showed fairness in issues during the 1939

Red Cliffs Picker's Riot.

Sport was part of community life. Football, cricket, tennis and horse racing events feature in the press reports as do the social events around them. The Carwarp and Yatpool football teams played each other and in 1920 Red Cliffs' first team, 'Diggers' joined. The teams and supporters came by train, some came from Mildura for the social community event. The rail also supported stump picking excursions raising money for the Mildura Hospital.

The vision of the pioneers was met and Carwarp district grew as a successful farming area. As cultivation became more mechanized, and farming practices improved, the size of the farms increased. Better roads and transport helped to change the community. The range of shopping, facilities and services available within a short drive, now offer greater options for those living on the farms.

Carwarp remains a depot for grain receiving and storage but it has also developed into areas the pioneers would never imagined. Crops have diversified, with some under irrigation. The Carwarp Olam almond processing plant is one of the world's largest. In the 1960s Yatpool tower offered Sunraysia homes television. Today Carwarp is the centre for generation of energy through solar power farms.

Workers commute daily from elsewhere. These new industries have changed the wider Sunraysia community and bring different challenges for Carwarp with increasing industry and tourist traffic using the highway. But the historic bond remains and Carwarp's 2023–2028 plan encourages developing a community place with facilities and environment for locals and visitors to appreciate and enjoy.

Courtesy of Red Cliffs & District Historical Society.



# Township Improvements

**Objective:** Encourage the community and tourists to utilise public areas

Actions	Next steps	Partners	Links
Support the development of a playground at Carwarp Hall	<ul> <li>Seek Council support for creating new family playground for young people in Carwarp.</li> <li>Establish partnerships with appropriate services to investigate public community risk and grants.</li> </ul>	Mildura Recreation Staff, Community Development staff, Community groups, residents, internal and external stakeholders, Council Parks and Garden, Millewa- Carwarp Landcare Group	<ul> <li>Council Recreation Strategy 2021-31</li> <li>Council Youth Engagement Strategy 2020-23</li> <li>Council Community Vision 2021-2040</li> </ul>
Inspire an act of civic pride working together as a community to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.	Identify areas and groups to create a program for regular clean up days. Investigate programs for roadside and public space clean ups. Support Council to implement ongoing green waste collection. Provide community education on how to use Snap, Send and Solve regarding illegal dumping of rubbish, overgrown trees, etc	Community, Council's Environmental Sustainability Unit, Millewa-Carwarp Landcare Group	Council Environmental Education Plan 2020–2024 Council Environmental Sustainability Report 2020–2021 Council Litter and Illegal Dumping Strategy 2020–2025 Council Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022–26 Cuncil Invasive Plants and Animals Plan 2020–2024 Council Vegetation Management Plan 2020–2024 Council Parks and Waste Services Environmental Education Plan 2020–2024





