

MTF - 'SETTLEMENT ESTATE' RED CLIFFS.

This year, 2018 marks one hundred years since World War One, often called the 'Great War', came to an end. The armistice was signed on the 11th of November 1918, which we now honour with a minutes silence at 11am, annually. The 'Great War' was a brutal and devastating affair based around trench warfare, an estimated 10 million people lost their lives.

To honour the call of the British Empire, 324,000 Australians enlisted for active service, all volunteers. At the commencement of the war in 1914, Australia's population was 5 million, in the majority of enlisting soldiers was a generation of young men, many mere boys who left our shores to fight in foreign lands. At war's end Australia recorded the highest casualty rate of any nation who fought with a volunteered force, 61,720 soldiers were killed, 155,000 were wounded. Many returning had lost limbs, were maimed from gas and fire, many died later from the effects inflicted, many tragically took their own lives, suffering and unable to escape from the mental anguish they carried following the conflict.

From the ashes of war came hope, the Australian Government, in an effort to rehabilitate returning soldiers devised soldier settlement schemes to be implemented by the States. The most suitable land for irrigated properties in Victoria was Red Cliffs, still owned by the debenture holders of the Chaffey Bros, who at this stage had gone into liquidation. They had preferred Red Cliffs for their initial project, but at that stage there were no pumps capable of lifting the necessary 105 feet, so the Mildura site was chosen. The Commonwealth Government purchased 33,000 acres for \$159,958, 18,000 acres was set aside for irrigation in blocks averaging 16 acres. The returning soldiers were offered these allotments once they had worked for two years clearing the land and building channels, hence from the irony of war the settlement of Red Cliffs sprang up beside the railway track, built on the back of returning diggers.

The naming of our new venture, 'Settlement estate', is but a small gesture to honour and respect all of our brave district's forefathers, it is also fitting to commemorate a century since the Great War and to remember the enormous sacrifice of our nations finest. 'Lest We Forget'.

The Street names in the estate are named after five settling soldiers, they were chosen in conjunction with the Red Cliffs RSL and were selected not only for their military records but to represent a cross section of men who imprinted on the Community in varied forms.

THE MEN BEHIND THE NAMES.

BARCLAY BOULEVARD-

N.Barclay- Service Number 1656, Sargeant 5th Battallion. (Allocated Block 448.) Born 1894- Died 1962.

Nat Barclay was a front line fighter, who endured 1,172 days of active service. He was stationed in Egypt, Gallipoli and then France where a gun shot wound to the right shoulder ended his military service. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery in the field. Settling in Red Cliffs along the highway, Nat Barclay was viewed as an excellent settler and an outstanding citizen. Actively involved in Legacy and the Red Cliffs RSL, Barclay became a Shire Councillor, serving a term as Shire President. He progressed to serve in Parliament for 13 years as the local Mildura Member and in 1954 he was honoured by Queen Elizabeth, who visited his 'showplace' property during her visit to the district. He died in 1962, a chartered plane full of Melbourne politicians attended his funeral at Red Cliffs where he was laid to rest.

SUTTERBY PLACE-

H.R.Sutterby- Service Number 2739. Lieutenant Australian Flying Corp (Allocated Block 457) Born 1900- Died 1955.

Reg Sutterby was the larrikin of the group, he enlisted as a Private in the infantry at the age of 15 and served in France where he sustained a gun shot wound to the knee. Found to be underage, he was taken out of the front line and later transferred to the Flying Corps where he trained as a pilot. Sutterby was involved in no less than five crashes. Serving 958 days of active service, he arrived in Red Cliffs with \$640 dollars in his pocket. Known for his daring exploits, he would often fly his plane under the old Mildura Bridge, later he would have his pilot's licence revoked for landing in front of the Red Cliffs Hotel. Sutterby was a very good footballer, he was in 1928, the last original settler playing for Red Cliffs. In World War Two, Reg again enlisted as a RAAF instructor

McGLASHAN STREET.

T.McGiashan- Service Number 5131. Private 6th Battalion. (Allocated Block 115) Born 1881- Died 1963.

Tom McGlashan served 1,117 days of active service. He served in France as a machine gunner, where he was shot in the back. Short in stature, only five foot two inches, Tom was a hard working family man, described in 1942 departmental files as an 'excellent settler'. He played the piano accordion at community dances and functions to raise money for the Catholic School. Tom lies at rest at the old cemetery in Red Cliffs where his descendants still reside.

GOULD PARADE.

C.H.Gould- Service Number 1552. Captain 6th Battalion. (Allocated Block 430) Born 1884- Died 1968.

Charlie Gould served in the Sixth Battalion where he endured 52 months of active service. Ranked as Sargeant, he survived the trenches of Gallipoli, later moving to the killing fields of France and Belgium. Here he was promoted to Lieutenant and then Captain. Gould was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery. Settling in Red Cliffs, Charlie became a Community Leader from the outset. Actively involved with both Legacy and the RSL, he became a Shire Councillor for eight years serving time as Shire President. He became the foundation President of the Red Cliffs Senior Citizens and for his outstanding commitment to the Community, he was honoured by the queen and awarded a MBE. He was respected for his honesty and integrity, he died in 1968, a leader of men.

VOULLAIRE DRIVE.

I.J.Voullaire- Service Number 3577. 2nd AM,AFC. (Allocated Block 146) Born 1896.

Jack Voullaire was an air mechanic in the Australian Flying Corp. Son of an innovative dried fruit grower, in 1922 Jack was elected to the board of the Red Cliffs Co-Operative Fruit Company. The following year, he was elected Chairman of the Board. As well as running a concrete construction business, he co-invented and pioneered a cold dipping oil for grapes. Voullaire's Oil is still being sold and used today.

Much of this reference data was sourced from Ken Wright's remarkable book, 'A Land Fit for Heroes'. Ken's father was among the original settlers and his book details and references all 708 allotments taken up in Red Cliffs by returned soldiers.