

the first 100 years

- 1838 Explorer Charles Sturt, following the Murray River, reaches the Edward River but is forced by impassable wetlands to cross to the Victorian side of the Murray River.
- 1840 A party of overlanders, led by Edward Howe and including James McLaurin, becomes the first group of white men to camp on the Gulpa Creek at present-day Mathoura.
- 1842 Mathoura run taken up by squatter Peter Stuckey Jr.
- 1848 A man named Ward has a rough shanty on the banks of Gulpa Creek, marked on Townsend's 1848 map of the area.
- 1851 The discovery of gold in Victoria brings a huge increase in overlanders bringing stock through the area.
- 1853 William Carter takes over Ward's Inn, renames it Redbank Inn and builds a reputation for his vegetables, vineyard and the excellence of his inn.
- 1858 Surveyor McCulloch lays out a town plan to which he gives the name Mathoura.
- 1859 Cobb and Co. coaches commence running from Deniliquin, through Redbank as Mathoura is still known, stopping at Redbank Inn.
- 1865 Mathoura's river red gum timber industry begins when Robert 'Redgum' Barbour builds the first of his seven sawmills in the local forests.
Famous circus proprietor Henry Burton buys the Redbank Inn and sets up his winter headquarters here.
- 1873 Selectors begin buying parts of Moira and Mathoura runs under provisions in the Robertson Land Act.
- 1876 The privately-owned Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company begins running trains through Mathoura.
- 1877 William V. Quiggin sets up Mathoura's first in-town sawmill. Local parents construct a school house and obtain government funding for it.
- 1880 Charles Opitz buys the sawmill from Quiggin.
- 1896 One hundred and twenty Sydney men, unemployed because of the financial depression, arrive to work at thinning the forest.
- 1906 Murray Shire is established, with Mathoura its principal town. Its first meetings are held in the Pastoral Hotel. Sawmiller Charles Opitz is its first president.
- 1910 The Shire Hall is built and opened.
Bank of NSW opens a sub-branch of Deniliquin office at Mathoura.
- 1916 Opitz's sawmill burns down, causing a financial downturn.
- 1923 Douglas Brothers build a new sawmill.
- 1926 Fifty local timbercutters are put out of work when Victorian Railways stops buying sleepers.
- 1930 Seven thousand railway sleepers, the first shipment of a large contract, leave Mathoura for Port Augusta, South Australia to be used on the trans-continental railway.
- 1938 Electricity, generated by Deniliquin Municipal Council, reaches Mathoura.

Visit the Mathoura Visitor and Business Centre on the Cobb Highway for even more to see and do in the district.

- Magnificent sculptures in the grounds of the Centre are just two of the outdoor artworks you'll find along the Long Paddock Touring Route. Enjoy colourful roadside stories of drovers, bullockies, transport drivers, timber workers, pastoralists and more, all along the Cobb Highway from Moama to Wilcannia
- Ask at the Centre about the best places to view ancient geological formations such as the Cadell Tilt and nearby sandhills
- The forests near Mathoura contain world-acclaimed wetlands and vegetation sheltering many hundreds of species of plants and animals. It's the perfect region for hiking, fishing, waterskiing, boating, camping, bird-watching and touring.
- Learn about river eco-systems, indigenous culture and heritage by following the Murray River Trail
- Family-friendly festivals include our Fishing Classic in March, the Easter Fair and the Mathoura Festival on the Melbourne Cup weekend
- Check out our local club and hotel entertainment



MATHOURA VISITOR AND BUSINESS CENTRE

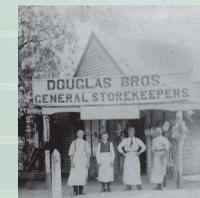
23 Moama St (Cobb Hwy), Mathoura NSW 2710
 P: 03 5884 3730, E: info@mathoura.com.au
 W: www.mathoura.com.au

Take a self-guided tour around the

mathoura

HERITAGE TRAIL

...and tread in the footsteps of pioneers



mathoura

HERITAGE TRAIL

Mathoura's shopping centre has not always been located at its present site. Before the railway came through in 1876 the shops were clustered along the Cobb Highway at the southern end of town. However the location of the railway station caused them to move and by the twentieth century almost all had relocated to the present site.



- 1 Mathoura's original fire tower
- 2 Original Douglas Brothers' store
- 3 Mathoura Railway Station
- 4 Railway sleepers awaiting transport
- 5 Main street in the 1920s
- 6 Pastoral Hotel
- 7 The old water tower
- 8 Red Gum Man
- 9 The Soldiers' Memorial Gardens

