

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

From one festivity to another, with mad March behind us we now welcome our history month of May and the "Tasting Australia" food festival.

There is surely something for every one. On the history side I will highlight specific events under our usual heading of Adelaide activities, but would like to add that it seems to me that 'ghosts' are the flavour of the month. Not only do they appear in their usual function centres like the Adelaide Gaol and Ayers House, but now also to be found in the Adelaide Arcade and if the reader has patience, wait until May 29 to participate in a CBD Ghost Crime Tour.

Full marks for innovation however, with the heartbeat of Tasting Australia located in Victoria Square for an eight-day hub of fine food and beverages. Try to find another city that can boast such easy access to the centre of action.

Proper charcoal cooking, at this time of the year, is hard to resist.

I have been reminded of the versatile Charles Todd, suddenly making headlines and recognised in Adelaide, as a man of many talents. It includes his knowledge in meteorology, as well as working as a telegrapher, scientist and Post-Master General, but also as described in my article in Newsletter No54, as a man who can deliver projects on time and on budget. How we wish they were still about.

Thanks to Karin N. I also like to add a little extra about our founder of the city and "Protector of the Parks" Colonel William Light. Yes, he is responsible for the 700 town acres surveyed south of the river Torrens and a further 342 north of the city, but few know of his two marriages, a fling in Spain during his fighting campaign and living with a house keeper here in Thebarton. Not the clean image our founding fathers demanded and most likely adding to the fact that many of the early responsible settlers did not approve of his past and found reasons to sadly keep a distance from this man.

P.T. '

A brief history of the Governor's Abode

The first Governor of SA, Capt. John Hindmarsh had his residence located at the head of the rise running up from the river Torrens, on ground now covered by the Adelaide Railway Station. This was in early 1837 when we found Gouger describe his abode as the Government's Hut, not suitable to entertain colonists, or impressing passing visitors in a gentlemanly style giving English comfort. Under the leadership of our second Governor Gawler work started on the Eastern section of the present Government House. This was in 1840 and located next to a sandstone quarry supplying natural building material. Gawler was perceived to be rather extravagant and with a cost of £10,000 complaints were quickly raised that he had built himself "a pretty comfortable house". However he has to be accredited for being responsible to finance the Police Barracks, a Jail, a Customs House and Hospital. For all this he departed in May 1841. At the time SA's population had reached 15,000 people. Construction to extend the building took several years. In 1855 the central portion including the ballroom, a state dining room, a study and the south hall and portico were added. But not until 1867 did the building closely resemble the current Government House.

Final additions were made in 1878 with a billiard room, Porter's Hall and a strong room completing the extensive abode sporting 10 chimneys. Our foundation member Diana M. had the pleasure of showing a group of visitors stopping over from the Indian Pacific Train the layout of the gardens courtesy of Mrs Lee, wife of current Governor Hieu van Lee.



Governor's House viewed from the south

P.T.

Temperance in the City of Churches

One of the attempts to form a new colony on the principles of temperance must surely have been a struggle.

When George Fife Angas supported the establishment of a Coffee House on the example of Deacon's London establishment, he had to concede the folly of such an idea immediately. Grog equalled money and sailors received their pay in rum. Settlers on Kangaroo Island already had spirits in quantity and it is no surprise to find that by 1837 Taverns were quickly added to the mix of housing. History records that the first 300 homes established in Adelaide included 12 public houses. At the time most of the early activities took place around Hindley Street west, where true to arrival of our first settlers on the ship Buffalo, the Buffalo's Head plied for business. Wearing a model of the ships figurehead until 1841 it changed species and became the Black Bull, whose sign presented a peaceful bull on one side and a raging animal on the other. This inscription was added:

***The Bull is tame, so fear him not
So long as you can pay your shot
When money's gone, and credit bad
That's what makes the bull go mad.***

A survivor of our early days is located in Grenfell Street next to the Tandanya Cultural Centre.

Starting as the Woodman, it took its name from the lumbermen who brought down their loads of timber from the Tiers. Staying with the custom representing the activity, it became The Electric Light, at around 1900 due to the first Power Station next door. Once we had a Market established in the East End and fruit and vegetables were traded, the name adopted was The Producer's Club, again fitting the bill. Another survivor from early days is the Hotel Richmond in Rundle Mall. It started as the Cornwall Inn, changed to the Plough and Harrow next and is still in business today as the Richmond.

References from: Inns of Australia by Paul McGuire



**Old Noarlunga Inn
PT**

Hard to beat.

Measuring six and a half times the length of the Adelaide Oval, Australia's longest passenger train makes its journey to Darwin. The Ghan with 44 carriages and two locomotives has a total length of 1096m. It is the longest train seen in Australia. Over the three day journey some of the 55 crew members will cook more than 3000 eggs for breakfast, serve 100kgs of barramundi and use up over 190kgs of vegetables. This record breaking length of The Ghan reflects the increasing demand for rail holidays in Australia. Thanks to our all inclusive fares and new options in Alice Springs and Katherine, there has been a surge in customer demand over the past 12 months says Sales Director for Great Southern Rail, Steve Kernaghan and we are now able to welcome thousands of travellers aboard this iconic train to share some incredible experiences. Amazing outback destinations at the heart of the country are part of The Ghan itinerary. This service is the beginning of one kilometre long trains departing Adelaide in which the choice would be at platinum and gold service level. Gone are the days of notification by radio message on local stations of mishaps hitting the old Ghan service running on narrow gauge rail via Maree and Oodnadatta. Adventures of that kind bring back memories of floods, derailments and bridge disasters along the way, that made the arrival in Alice Springs unpredictable. Old timers of the region will recall the last train to Alice running in November 1981. A great celebration at the time.

P.T.

Diversification is the key

A Victorian tour operator who had been running tours for many years to destinations along the prime Great Ocean Road, made this comment recently, “it just can’t cope”.

He was referring to the most advertised spot along the coast, the “Twelve Apostles”, now sporting only eight. The future changes in the limestone formation may take a while to dwindle into obscurity, but the people problem is here, right now. The infrastructure to cope with the ever increasing numbers of tourists needs attention. The car-park overflows a considerable amount of time, there is crowding on the board-walk and there is damage to the environment.

Unfortunately at the moment the ‘good experience’ is doubtful. Tourists interviewed after the visit, rate their expectation to visit such a destination much higher than the actual delivery. What can we learn from such a dilemma?

Some of Adelaide’s nearby destinations need a re-assessment also before we keep piling up the tourist numbers. The two hotspots coming to mind are Hahndorf and the Barossa Valley. At weekends our German town becomes a constant traffic jam and parking facilities are prime focal points. The main narrow road may have served as a thoroughfare many years ago, but is now completely saturated. Our second hot-spot. The Barossa Valley carries its name around the world as a top destination for top wines. But once more, we see coach loads of tourists arriving at destinations choked with mini buses and private visitors, taking away the special attention that used to be part of this local culture. It is time to be innovative and open up other destinations close by. We are fortunate to have some of the best coastline at our doorstep and together with good outdoor cooking and wine, the Southern Vales could surely be given more attention. P.T.

Events around Adelaide

April 30 – May 7

Tasting Australia

May 1-May 31

History Festival

May 7&21

Adelaide Oval Sculptures

Meet at Barry Robran sculpture 11:00am

May 28

Unley Museum, Weaving Histories
(Aboriginal art)

May 6-7

Gumeracha Medieval Fair

May weekends, early to mid May

Pick a Pink Lady (Apple picking)

May 21

Government House open day

May 19-22

Clare Gourmet Weekend

We done it again

The top 10 most beautiful & cleanest cities

- No 1 Calgary
- No2 Adelaide**
- No 3 Honolulu
- No 4 Minneapolis
- No 5 Kobe
- No 6 Copenhagen
- No 7 Helsinki
- No 8 Wellington
- No 9 Oslo
- No 10 Freiburg

Note: again some big names are missing in action