

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

I have returned from a relaxing brief holiday on Norfolk Island, a 360 degree paradise, as described by the local population. Currently counting about 1,600 of partly Pitcairn related descendants. This island is only a speck in the Pacific Ocean a little closer to New Zealand than the east coast of Australia, but with a history going back to the convict years of the early settlement in Sydney and later the *Bounty* mutineers, their Tahitian spouses and traders. Noted by captain Cook in his journal's second voyage in 1777, he mapped its location which was passed on to captain Arthur Phillip and the commander of the *HMS Sirius*, who visited the island to investigate its suitability to grow food for the new colony of NSW.

The Island has become a year round tourist destination and with a convict settlement tour, progressive dinner, or Island fish fry feast gives plenty of choices to the visitors and enjoy the hospitality of the locals. Both Brisbane and Sydney connect with flights by Qantas and Air NZ. There is plenty to see with picnic locations in all directions, a well maintained golf-course for the enthusiast and a safe swimming beach at Emily Bay. You will find a winery and distillery producing the 'Convict's Curse' scotch and you will have to adjust to island time when going shopping. On a very windy day however, landing could present a problem and you may be stranded for an extra day, I can tell the story.



A view of the penal settlement at Kingston on Norfolk Island

Visit to the David Roche House Museum

A well attended famil on the last day of August warmed up the winter chills. We met and admired a collection of treasures that had been kept in the home of David Roche for many years.

The foundation was established in 1999 to be the recipient and custodian of the exceptional collection of antique furniture, paintings and other objects d'art from many parts of the world. Our large group was split in two and we started in the later gallery with a more organised display (see photo)



But once we moved in to his previous residence, it became obvious that 'collecting' with an open cheque book and no specific themes in mind, the end result can easily become a bit of a mixed bag of colours, materials and objects.

He himself referred to his freedom of selection as pointing to an 'enthusiastic buff' lost in the world of art. With over 3,000 items in the collection, there is something to be found for every lover of fine objects.

Just a brief moment of disappointment must have occurred upon a visit from ceramics experts seen on the English Antique Road Show, when they spotted a number of doubtful objects amongst his collection, that sneaked in under the umbrella of copies.

The other great love of David Roach belonged to the breeding of dogs, Weimeraners and Afghans to name but two of his favourites. There is a room dedicated to many winners from shows around the competition arenas of Australia. He loved winning top prize, but made it difficult for judges to award any runner up ribbons.

P.T.

Trams have returned to the City

With the latest extension of a tram line to the East of Adelaide, it is interesting to reflect on the past years in our fair city.

In the 1870's, at the urging of colonists who had seen horse tramways in use in cities in Europe and America, proposals for Adelaide's first tramway system were put forward. The guiding force behind these proposals was an Adelaide merchant, W.C. Buik (later styled the father of the Adelaide tramways), who was convinced of the value of horse trams as a form of public transport both to the people of the city and to the investors who financed them. Under him the Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company was formed, and in 1876 the SA Parliament passed a Tramways Act, allowing for the construction of lines from Rundle Street to Kensington and from North Terrace to North Adelaide. **(Does this sound familiar?)** These lines began operation in 1878, while by 1880 lines to Mitcham and Hindmarsh were completed. On the Mitcham line an attempt was made to use a smokeless motor engine to drive the tram, but this proved a failure, the engine ending its days in a chaff mill. Two horses on each car proved far more reliable, with a third horse added temporarily for hilly sections such as in North Adelaide.



Early horse drawn tram now in the museum in St Kilda.

After 20 years Adelaide had a number of lines running to its larger suburbs, and two of the companies controlling the services made a sound profit. It had been the proud boast of Adelaide to be the first Australian city to have the horse trams, but with the use of electricity more common, changes had to be made. In 1906 the formation of the Municipal Tramways Trust, a combination of government and local councils, was given 3 years to develop an electric tramway system. New tracks and cables followed and on November 30 1908, an electric tram made a trial run from the Hackney Road car barn to the Botanic Gardens main gate. It quickly became a popular means of transport in the metropolitan area. The new trams kept city life active and expanding. In 1925 the trust increased its services by providing motor buses on some routes, and in 1937 electric trolley buses were introduced. They still operated until the late 1950's, when other tram lines were closed and only Glenelg had a remaining service on, what used to be an original railway connection. Let's keep an eye on future extensions in present days.

PT

The new RAH comes alive.

Yes, finally after 10 years of planning and construction and \$2.3 billion later we have a new hospital at the west end of town, to provide care for 85,000 inpatients a year. The first hospital in Adelaide built in 1841, provided care for 30 patients in 3 wards. In 1891 the hospital actually had a theatre block with a surgical table, described at the time as "the best of its kind" and the building was hailed as one of the most complete in the world. Now we see 40 'technical suites', all of them 65sq m in size including operating theatres, interventional cardiology, and radiology rooms, along with diagnostic and gastrointestinal procedural rooms.

Back in the 1890's patients would go out for an airing of beds, taking wheelchairs and on crutches for some fresh air in the hospital grounds. I believe the new facilities actually allow windows to be opened to refresh the rooms. Latest technology includes three targeted radiation machines, valued at \$3 million each, which provide high-dose cancer therapy to the millimetre. Other advances include robots transporting meals and picking up linens. The very early days of Adelaide's hospital near the Botanic Gardens generated revenue from the breeding of leeches for sale. Convalescent patients would use the gardens to recover and enjoy, we now have 100,000 trees and plants, along with more than 70 themed courtyards across nine levels.

The other important opening took place a little further east, with the eastern wing of the Convention Centre adding to facilities. The centre is planning for around 900 conventions per year. P.T.

One step ahead----

We constantly see reference statistics to China, be it in their need for raw products from Australia, imports in Australian wine, (\$392 million from SA in the last financial year), or the number of tourists heading south, who now top 1.25 million a year.

But another giant has risen due to a considerable improvement in their middle class status. It is India. Set for double digit growth over the coming 5 years. Tourism Australia chief executive John O'Sullivan said India was now classified as a "full-build market" already bringing near 280,000 visitors to our shores and likely to grow to half a million by 2025. A recent travel mission to India talking to 110 Indian tour buyers, recruited former Australian cricket captain Michael Clarke to help boost travel from this cricket mad country to Australia. Herein lay the advantages for a preparation of a tourist boom from India. We have the MCG and locally historic Adelaide Oval, we also share much of the English culture and language, Don Bradman means as much to Adelaide as his hometown of Bowral in NSW.

While China grabs all the headlines because of sheer numbers, their behaviour is isolated to their own accommodation venues, guiding practises and eating habits, much like the boom from Japan in the 90's mainly along the eastern seaboard. The opportunity for SA is to assist in bringing tourists from India with direct flights to Adelaide, or to Darwin with a connection to the train. The middle class in India is estimated to make up about 300 million, their economy is booming at an estimate of about 12% a year, and their peak travel season fits in with Australia's low period of visitors, April, June and July.

The Sydney Bridge Climb chief executive, Todd Coates, said the company was buoyed by the projected inbound growth from India.

On top of it all, we can actually communicate.....

Events around Adelaide

September 21- October 8

Oz Asia festival

October 8-15

World Solar Challenge)

October 11-15

Adelaide Fashion Festival

October 13-January 28

TARNANTHI

Festival of Aboriginal and Torres Straight Art

November 18

Christmas Pageant

Keep an eye on this development at Glenelg. The Buffalo replica ship is to be reinvented with an outdoor bar and alfresco dining area, as well as a kiosk, deck and dock in its old spot on the Patawalonga River. Other changes in the area will see the Comfort Inn on Adelphi Tce demolished making room for a new hotel complex.

Cruising Boom

Adelaide's cruising season is about to start, with first arrival, the *Sun Princess*, berthing on October 14 at Outer Harbor. We may have over 37 visits this season, but not all are coming to Adelaide while in South Australian waters. On their maiden visit will be the Norwegian Jewel in December, the *MS Regatta* and *Noordam* in January, *Azamara Journey* in February and the *Seven Seas Navigator* in March. For us tour guides the terminal has a few surprises after a considerable upgrade and until early December we will miss the train connection due to work around Bowden.

Since the tightening of asset tests early this year cruise bookings have doubled for some operators, the 'Ski' club (spend the kids inheritance) is booming. Luxury cruise operator, Regent Seven Seas Miami based president Jason Montague, says Australia was an enormous market for the cruise industry and he is not alone in taking this market seriously.

P.T.