

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

With the arrival of the *Golden Princess* and at the end of March, the *Sea Princess*, Adelaide's 2017/2018 cruise season is taking a breather.

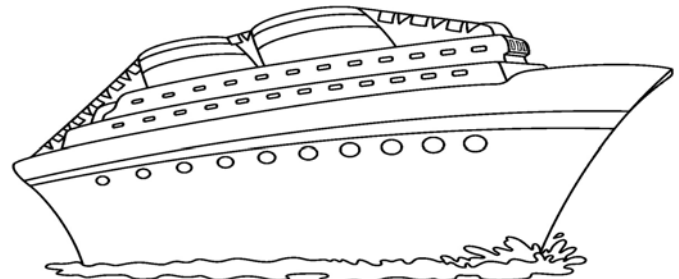
For guides working on the Feb 16 to Feb19 period, this was almost a 'full time job' but we would not be a willing participant if we did not enjoy the contact with visitors, the destinations and the rewards.

When arrivals to Adelaide start again, in October this year, we will be just as friendly and helpful, as is almost a trademark of Adelaidians.

I find it difficult not to pass on the following, in respect to our sporting rivals the Victorians. Not only did their capital Melbourne have to wait until March 4, 1837 to be named, after the region was referred to as Port Phillip, but almost copped the name "Batmania", after Batman. But wait, there is more. Predicted to grow to a mega city of 8 to 10 million by 2050 and currently adding a population the size of Ballarat each year, the pace and impact of such growth is threatening its future sustainability.

Why do I mention this dilemma? Because we are continuing in a manageable size at the moment, with improvements in public transport at least visible, if you happen to be an O-Bahn user, or take the option of the North-South corridor bypass. But not all is without some critique in lovely Adelaide. The Lord Mayor of Adelaide Martin Haese stated only recently: "When it comes to tourism, first impressions matter and it is essential that the city is presented in the best possible light and provides world class infrastructure and services". To make it happen, try this for adaptability. Service delivery needs to be more innovative and a new "tourism alliance" of industry including tour operators and taxi drivers should be better used to showcase the state. On top of all that a follow up report revealed that moving the visitor information centre from the prime Rundle Mall shopping strip location to James Place, had caused enquiries to fall and ultimately tourist participation in activities. P.T.

About to be launched



The building boom of cruise ships is continuing in full swing with 85 new ships hitting the high seas between 2018 and 2025. This year alone will see the debut of 16 ocean cruisers, from first -in-class expedition vessels to the world's largest mega liners. In particular, luxury, adventure yachts are multiplying as more people seek to go remote but not feral. So get ready to sail on these "new builds" in the most varied shapes and sizes.

SYMPHONY OF THE SEAS

Rising 18 decks tall with a maximum capacity of 6,680 passengers, a huge theatre that can host a full production of *Hairspray*, 18 dining venues specialising in different cuisines and a staggering 2,759 cabins.

CARNIVAL HORIZON

The US's 4000 passenger Carnival will have an IMAX Theatre, an open air recumbent bike ride, a rope course, mini-bowling, a 130 metre water tube slide and a pub-cum-barbecue joint with a brewery that makes the line's own beer on board.

NORWEGIAN BLISS

Ideal for its Scenic destinations, Norwegian cruise lines next 4000 passenger ship will allow sightseeing in comfort from an observation lounge stretching 1800sq metres to provide 180 degree views.

SEABOURN OVATION

Similar to sister ship Seabourn Encore, the most luxurious ship based in Australia this summer, The Seabourn Ovation will cater to 600 concerning passengers in high end style. Fine dining is key, notably at The Grill by Thomas Keller who runs the French Laundry in California.

MAJESTIC PRINCESS

Already launched and presently in Asia it will be fresh to Australia when it arrives in September. The Majestic will show off the lines most popular features, such as Movies Under the Stars on the top decks and the adults-only Sanctuary, at their shining best.

A visit to the Mawson Museum

Thanks to president Joc and his many contacts, we visited the Mawson Museum, just off Kintore Avenue for a SATGA famil at the end of February. Here we listened to the senior collections manager of the Australian Polar Collection, Mark Pharaoh, who gave us an overview of the acquisitions of Antarctic memorabilia and some fascinating anecdotes relating to incredible hardships experienced by all the polar explorers.

It is an Adelaide connection for three of the top names, Sir Douglas Mawson, John Riddoch Rymill and George Hubert Wilkins, that explains why so much information and effects are gathered locally, prompting an additional display to be added on the third floor of our Museum, now called the Australian Polar Collection Gallery. Strangely South Australia produced all of Australia's polar expeditions, upwards of a dozen between them. We now finally mention Wilkins and Rymill who have been long overlooked and unjustly so, says curator Mark. Perhaps in the future we may hear some incredible adventures our president Joc can himself share with us from a period he spent in the Antarctic, when huskies partnered the loneliness of explorers.



Only two of the world's continents lie entirely within the Southern Hemisphere: Australia and Antarctica. While one is close to the equator the other is situated about the South Geographic Pole. Antarctica is almost entirely covered by an ice sheet and in extreme weather snow blizzards can cause whiteout an optical phenomenon in which uniform light conditions make it impossible to distinguish shadows, landmarks or the horizon. This loss of perspective and direction would add to the difficulties looking at an unbroken snow cover, but at the same time beautiful effects can be observed in the freezing dry atmosphere, where frozen water vapour remains in the air as suspended ice crystals, resulting in spectacular atmospheric effects such as solar pillars, sun dogs and solar halos. There is no doubt much more to study and talk about as Antarctica also happens to be the highest continent on earth and elevations reach more than 4,000m.

PT

Kiwi's take the crown.

The shearing profession is now an almost dying occupation. Before the wool crash of 1989 some 15,000 shearers were registered in Australia. The latest census has 3,200 professional shearers left with many over 40 years of age.

Out of that total, about 60 to 70 per cent come from across the ditch, New Zealand. Tom Roberts's most famous pastoral painting, *Shearing the Rams* would now require some touch-ups with sport and tribal tattoos a common sight and the accent of Maori heritage evident. Terrinallum woolsheds in Victoria's western district has shearer's and rouseabouts moving quickly and deftly through the long, lustrous fleeces of the station's famous crossbred sheep. Gun shearer, Tony Cook, a Kiwi says that the only way to keep the workforce up is with the Kiwi shearers who now live here permanently.

Terrinallum farm manager Tim Gubbins agrees, with 10,000 sheep to shear each year on the grand, sprawling property near Mortlake, finding a team of eight skilled and calm shearers and wool workers for the large woolshed, who will care for the sheep as well as remove their wool, is always a problem.

The chronic shortage of shearers and woolshed workers in Australia has been a problem for many years, exacerbated by many young school leavers in rural regions choosing to chase highly paid mining jobs rather than turning to less glamorous farm work. A good shearer can earn \$287 for every 100 sheep he shears. Only 72million sheep will be shorn this year nationally compared with 180 million 25 years ago,

P.T.

Room for improvement

Visitors to Adelaide on ever increasing numbers of cruise-ships give pretty good feedback about the welcome ‘aussie sound’ at the terminal, the friendly greetings and places they visit. The Malaysian Airline magazine reported that some of the best things you can do in Adelaide are actually “free” like going to the beach, walking or riding in the hills or visiting our cultural precinct along North Terrace.

The roof climb experience at Adelaide Oval received high marks and the many eating places around the city serving amazing food. As expected from overseas visitors a visit to Cleland or Gorge Road wildlife park to see kangaroos and koalas comes in as the best souvenir to take home. So how do other stops on the cruising circuit around Australia make the grade. My recent Tasmania visit on board the Astor gave me the most spectacular scenery of a rugged coastline at the most southern tip of the island. A stop at Port Arthur was very brief and with just two tenders operating at \$27 for landing costs, many cancelled out and stayed on board. Even remaining overnight in Hobart and a half day slot for the Sunday did not give enough time to explore, but their displays and quality of Tasmanian art and souvenirs takes the prize when compared to our drab products and lack of variety at the cruise terminal.



Our last stop in Burnie had all pax meeting the local mayor and receiving a badge to remember this friendly northern Tasmanian township, now exporting wood-chips, but also producing fine whiskey. P.T.

Events around Adelaide

Historic Motor Vehicle Gathering
Edwards Park (Park 23)
March 18

Goolwa Art & Photographic Exhibition
March 24 – April 7

Clare Valley, Blenheim Fest
March 29-30

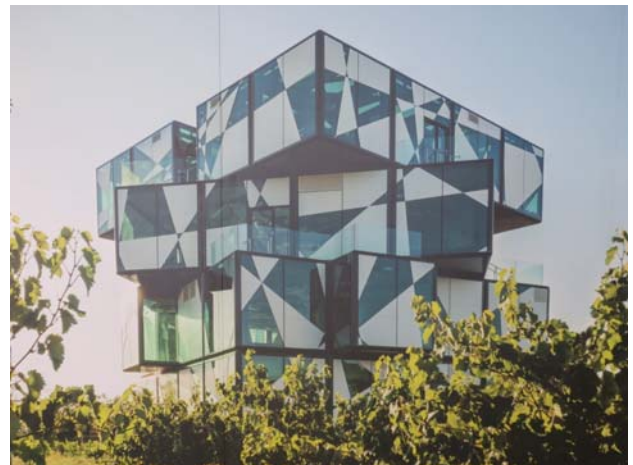
Art Gallery of SA
Colours of Impressionism

Tasting Australia
April 13-22

McLaren Vale Vintage & Classic car parade
April 22

SA Autumn Garden Festival
April 29

Visit to the Cube



Please note: that our final arrangements will be forwarded to all participants joining in for the famil in the McLaren Vale on Friday March 23rd. by early next week, so you will know your pick up point and timetable for the day.
P.T.