

# YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

## *South Australian Tourist Guide Association*

### SATGA NEWSLETTER

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#### NEWSLETTER No 62 May, 2018

Greetings from your Editor,

The month of May in SA is dedicated to history. There is no exception and we find interest in regions as far away as the Eyre Peninsula, where stories and exhibits of early settlements, maritime connections and Railway history can be found from Whyalla to Elliston. Ready for the visitor to stop and enjoy.

Closer to home, I would recommend to pick up a History Festival brochure and check out the diverse venues around Adelaide. Since 2004 this month of historical displays has been captivating and curious whatever your specific interest. We should however not be restricting our visits to the beginning of the colony only, but certainly combine the much older customs and habits of local Indigenous culture. For this important inclusion, a National Reconciliation Week (NRW) has been planned for the week 27 May to 3 June. There are at least 18 highlights listed in the brochure including walking tours, Art Exhibitions, Film screenings and weaving workshops. Once more, for details refer to the History Festival information. I like to close this introduction with a short phrase of indigenous wisdom "There would be no Mother Earth, without Grandfather Sun".

Fitting in to the picture of history would be the Adina Hotel on the corner of King William and Flinders Streets. The sandstone wall of the lobby dates back to 1839, just 3 years after SA settlement. Several guest rooms also retain period features, with Room 21 a former fireproof records room with a vaulted brick ceiling. Apart from noises made by bicycles wheeled around the corridors during the Tour Down Under, rumour speaks of a resident ghost hiding in the maze of underground tunnels. But a more suitable hiding place is claimed to have been used by the Beatles in 1963, when they dashed away from their ever screaming fans in to the dungeons of the old Treasury Building.

P.T.

#### A visit to the Cube



*Is it a Tourist trap or will it become a cultural icon?*

*Our Famil in April gave us a glimpse of Chester Osborne's steel, concrete and glass structure inspired by the Rubik's cube. Plonked amongst the vines at McLaren Vale it has attracted a swag of visitors so far and as the master of eccentricity tells us, it needs them all to give a return on his investment. The idea unfolded some 13 years ago and the dressed up wine maker is the first to admit, that showy, slightly mad fantasies of colour in addition to good wines, will result in much conversation. Spreading the word will certainly speed up the payment for an investment of \$10 plus million.*

*We were greeted by a sound from a wind chime collector and led into video screened passage featuring 3 D labels to a tasting room with ever changing bar stories. While waiting for the lift we were surrounded by containers filled with aromatic fantasies to describe fine wines. Eventually with tasting in full swing, you may have to step into the first floor bathroom, only to notice, once the entry door was discovered, that a standard men's urinal was nowhere to be found. The cube is a breath of fresh air compared to traditional cellar doors and this attraction to the McLaren Vale and the Fleurieu Peninsula is surely a game changer. Chester's creation breaks all the boundaries of wine tourism and will be a major draw card for the region. Described by some as a Willy Wonka's Wine factory, it is likely to inspire other eccentric creations, but this one will always be first. During Tasting Australia recently the venue was given further exposure holding a Surrealist Ball where patrons with strange outfits were a must to be allowed to attend. P.T.*

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## **Good news from wine growing Regions**

The longer than usual summer this year may have worried some agricultural regions to prepare for next seasons grain crop but the SA grape growing regions are reporting good quality and intense flavours, promising a treat for consumers as the 2018 wine harvest nears completion. The long dry spells have helped to remove the threat of disease and allowed for more concentrated flavours in the fruit. Grape Council of SA business manager Lisa Bennier said regional industry experts had reported “exceptional” grape quality, but a drop in yield of about 10 – 20%. Wine Australia figures showed that the 2017 crush reached 860 thousand tonnes and was worth an estimated \$658 million to the State. It is still too early to note this years crush but particular highlights include the Eden Valley Rieslings, Langhorne Creek’s cabernet sauvignon and Adelaide Hills sparkling grape supply. The Indian summer we have had has been very beneficial giving winemakers the opportunity to leave fruit hang so that flavours, particularly on the red varieties, become more intense.

Below some regional breakdown.

### **Barossa Valley**

Reports of high quality vintage but down on yield.

### **McLaren Vale**

Favourable ripening conditions, crop yields down on last year, but last year was very large.

### **Coonawarra**

Crops are down but the fruit coming in is at optimum maturity.

### **Adelaide Hills**

More concentrated flavours allowing the fruit to hang in perfect mild autumn weather. Ideal for sparkling wines, pinot noir and shiraz.

### **Clare Valley**

Ripening has been cool and dry and reds are showing particular promise.



*Enjoying a good drop from South Australia*

PT

## **From New Era to World’s End.**

This may have a ring of Utopia, but we are actually in South Australia. During the 1890’s, SA was trudging through a drawn-out depression. The rural economy had been hit by drought, banks were collapsing and unemployment very high. Men camped outside the Exhibition Building and along the Botanic Park. They queued on the banks of the River Torrens for rations of bread and meat. In 1893 a group of locals searching for an unearthly paradise in communal living sailed off to Paraguay in South America. Just days after the second boat left Adelaide, the Chief Secretary of the Legislative Council announced a bill for resettlement which has all the matching ideals of Communism. It aimed for “share and share alike”, and “no-one need buy any land”, and “no-one owned produce”, nor would you want an income. Each settlement would be governed by an elected Board that controlled almost everything. Did such a place really exist? Yes, they travelled by Paddle steamer up the Murray, armed with chooks and sheets of iron to set up camp on 2,095 acres in a narrow valley near a little town now known as Cadell. Twenty two families started the fruit growing region of the Riverland. NEW ERA survived for 10 years between 1894 and 1904, but you would have to search hard to find the plaque to indicate the spot. The other strange name is World’s End a location near Burra. It was actually given to a property bordering the Goyder’s Line at the time owned by D McDonald. They say he was joking when he named it and one of the ruins remaining could well have been the World’s End Post Office.

I selected this interesting story from a publication titled: The Road to Mount Buggery.

**Note:** The location of Mt. Buggery is near Mansfield in Victoria and no doubt will be a new destination for South Australian’s now that we have input from a Victorian business to frame SA Tourism destinations. The mind boggles, what next. Perhaps the extension of the Great Ocean Rd along the Coorong with periodic murals to actually show the ocean.

PT

### A Queen named Adelaide



She was born Amalia Adelheid Louise Therese Karolina Wilhelmina on August 13, 1792, but she is better known as Queen Adelaide. It would be fair to say that the majority of South Australians barely know her at all. We know the City of Adelaide was named in her honour in 1836 and we know she was the wife of King William IV. She was passionate about the rights of children and a driving force behind the abolition of slavery in England and it is thought that she helped persuade her husband to reform Parliament to make it more Democratic and thereby extending the vote to those who had previously not been eligible to vote.

She also reportedly introduced Christmas trees to the English. The future Queen was born in the small German duchy of Saxe-Meiningen.

At 25 when she moved to England in 1818 to marry William Henry, Duke of Clarence who was 53 at the time. It's fair to say he was something of a colourful character. Before he married Adelaide, William had lived with an Irish actress called Dorothea Jordan. The pair had 10 children of whom 8 survived. They all took on the name FitzClarence, Fitz denoting that they were illegitimate. William and Adelaide had 4 children of their own but none made it past infancy. He died in 1837 and was replaced by his niece Victoria.

P.T.

### Events around Adelaide

Oaks and Derby Day, at Morphettville  
May 5&12

Clare Gourmet Weekend  
May 18-21

Adelaide Cabaret Festival  
June 8-23

Woodstock Music Festival  
McLaren Vale June 9&10

Transitions Film Festival  
May 18-28

My picks from the History Calender

Botanic Gardens Australian Aboriginal History  
and Culture Tour Thursday May 24 3-4pm  
(meet at the Friends Gate, there is a cost)

All of May at Ayers House  
Age of Elegance in Victorian Adelaide

Carclew House, Historical Tour  
15 & 22 May at 11:00 am, May 13 at 2:00pm

### Port Adelaide Walk

Please note: for all participants a further reminder to meet on May 18, near the Port Adelaide Visitor Centre at 10:15 am for a 10:30 start. The walk will take about 1 1/2 hours and we may finish somewhere in the nearest pub for lunch. The guide will be John Ford and as he is doing this privately, an appreciative reward from all of us would be nice. Thank you to Thelma for organising this event.

P.T.

-we are also planning to do a walk around North Adelaide, with more details to come after our next committee meeting.