

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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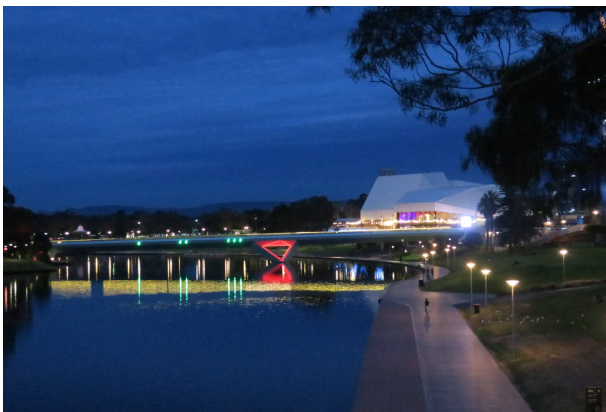
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Greetings from your Editor,

With the arrival of the Viking Sun on March 23, the cruise ship season 2018/2019 came for Adelaide to its conclusion. It turned in to a testing time with 17 coaches duplicating the visit to Glenelg and the City, parking was once more the challenge of the day. How all in the tourism industry pride themselves with greeting ever increasing numbers to our lovely City, but not come up with viable parking provisions is a mystery. Glenelg is known for some time not to co-operate with parking, but even along Pulteney Street the coach company had issues with Metro transport claiming ownership to any vacant section. Visitors can not be expected to search for their coach after an enjoyable outing, therefore a permanent position is essential.

The Viking cruise company handed a feedback questionnaire to passengers on the tours with some interesting choices to respond. For example: how was the overall experience of the excursion and how was the knowledge of the guide. It would be most useful to see some of the answers. In my last newsletter I concentrated on the 150 years celebration of our central market but have now noticed that at the northern end of the city the St Peters Cathedral is also proudly displaying a 150 year event. Finally a 140 year event nobody will stand still to celebrate, but you can do it sitting down. Records show that Adelaide has the oldest functioning waterborne sewerage system in Australia going back to 1879.



P.T.

Slums in Adelaide town ?

This question comes up on occasions from overseas visitors and I am sure you would be scratching your head to find a fitting location.

But it was not always like this. The West End of our city recorded the poorest families in Adelaide right up to the 1920's. This included streets around Light Square, branching in to Currie, Waymouth, Franklin, Grote and Gilbert Streets. But the real action must have been in and around many hotels, of which 60 at least have been registered by 1900 to have attached brothels.

On September 16, 1850, an article appeared in *The Register* about a number of pestiferous dens existing in Light Square and it's neighbourhood, which may be considered the moral cesspool of the City of Adelaide. No merciful master would kennel his hounds there. "Squalid filth and fetid vice rendered the atmosphere rank and with unwholesome weeds. We have visited these moral ordure-pits and pity the man or the woman who could gaze unmoved on their frightful contents". It seems incongruous that a city founded by generally such morally righteous citizens had more than it's fair share of evil.

But the saviours' of Adelaide led the way with reforms and with noble ambitions. Along came people like Katherine Helen Spence, lobbying for a special ward to treat venereal disease, the Women's Christian Temperance Union working to prevent registration and lobbied for compulsory health checks and Mary Mckillops Josephite Sisters eventually providing a haven for needy residents. Even a converted brothel keeper in Semaphore, a Mrs Louisa Clarke Wells who could play a piano, spoke French and enjoyed reading poetry, eventually writing books and pamphlets about her experiences in the Colony to prove she was not a "fallen woman" joined the fight against prostitution. When she arrived in South Australia, as a dressmaker who struggled to find work, it was not easy with 3 children in tow. Wells even wrote about her clients from judges to magistrates, members of parliament, barristers, merchants, doctors, down to the common thieves. She quoted men as being heartless who have led good women into vice but stepping out without a stain on their character and leaving us to a more bitter ending than the tongues can tell. I guess much is connected to specific situations of life in a city, but a fair share of idleness and drink must have been a major contributing factor.

P.T.

Tourism News

Eco Tourism makes the headlines in reports about a walking company making plans to build lodges and sleeping pods on KI to the project in 3 National Parks on Hinchinbrook Island in Queensland and down south to top wilderness spots in Tasmania like the 10 ha Halls Island. The debate, in all these regions focuses on Trek companies rushing for huts, lodges and heli pads which may be providing easy access but in a way destroying a real wilderness feel. We need to market our Wilderness as Wilderness and not market the man made structures and creature comforts that are being proposed to develop the industry. If we keep doing this we will lose the very reason why people want to come to these very natural areas in the first place.

Such is the belief of true Wilderness lovers that have a problem fitting into the Tasmanian Government's argument that more Tourism experiences in parks are needed, in order to meet the demand for a booming and vital sector.

Indigenous food has been elevated to a powerful platform of late. Again the thoughts are to drive Tourism opportunities using traditional food culture on an entrepreneurial basis. For decades Chef Jock Zonfrillo has ploughed into researching Australia's Native bounty. Scottish born Zonfrillo was appalled in the lack of knowledge and interest in Indigenous food when he moved here almost 20 years ago. Undeterred however, he gained the trust of communities to begin discovering the secrets of traditional bush food, which now features in his much awarded Adelaide restaurant Orana and Bistro Blackwood. The importance of his work was recognized when he was last year awarded the prestigious Basque Culinary World prize of \$158,000 which is supporting several of the foundations projects right up to distant Nyui Nyui Community in the Kimberleys.

Can anyone blame residents of Venice complaining when they view the destruction of their waters from an average 594 cruise ships annually. On land they have to cope with an increase of 20% of 'eat and run' tourists with tightly choreographed schedules, congregating in high traffic areas. mainly from China.

Sultan of Swap

I am sure many of you remember Laurie Tredrae, otherwise known as the 'Sultan of Swap' who would swap anything for anything you want to buy and ran a regular advertising spot on 5KA in the 1960's. Born in Melbourne he grew up behind the counters of his parents shop in Gouger Street. His mother was a milliner and his father a gold buyer (the right background for trading). He fits into the old Australian *character* mould, unfortunately pretty well lost in our modern era.

Following are a couple of anecdotes I am sure you will enjoy. During a campaign to sell second hand sunbeam shavers, Laurie filled his Market shop window with hundreds of fluffy, yellow one day old chicks warmed by frying pans suspended from the ceiling. To win a Sunbeam Mixmaster you had to count the chickens in the window, quite a challenge. There was a huge crowd the morning the winners were announced for prizes and coupons and as a bonus they collected a shoebox full of chicks.

Another story involves eggs and a slight-of-hand expert, or you may call them a magician or trickster. His name was Charlie Nelson. Charlie had bought a dozen eggs in a stall in the market and dropped one in sight of many, only to find a sovereign in the yolk. The crowd waited with baited breath and there to all surprise was another sovereign. When he did it a third time a bystander yelled "I'll buy the lot".

Reflecting a little on my own work life experience, how wonderful it was to share a joke, have time for a yarn and add social activities, like a social club to the routine of turning up every day for your employment. We have replaced all that with new terms of work related action like: 'downsizing and headhunting'

P.T.

More about real struggle

If the article about Adelaide's early slums made you realise not all smells like roses have a look at Australia after the great depression thanks to the Wall Street Crash in 1929. We come up with a complete set of new words such as *Swagman* and on the *Wallaby Track*.



Typical image

In the early 30s swaggies trudged the roads and streets of Australia day after day looking for work or refuge. One day a young Irishman called Mick, carrying his swag, came into a drapery shop on Main North Rd, Nailsworth asking if they had a bag of needles. He wanted to sew some wheat bags together knowing that bulk lots of drapery were delivered in Hessian he asked if he could be given some Hessian as he had no money to buy it, at least not after he had purchased the needles and thread to stitch them together. What he was making was a blanket in which he hoped he could wrap himself in. As with other swaggies he thought shelter from the wind lying beside box thorn hedges in fields at Gepps Cross. In the end he became useful and lived with Ethel and her husband Cyril at the drapery shop for 11 months until he found a more permanent job at the Sir John Franklin Hotel in Kapunda.



Progressing well, the replica *Independence* American River, KI

Events around Adelaide

Tasting Australia

Regions and Adelaide

April 5-14

Barossa Valley Vintage Festival

Wineries and town centres

April 24-28

Aladdin

Broadway Musical, Festival Centre

April 6- June 9

Clare Gourmet Weekend

Clare Valley

May 17-20

History Festival

Regions and Adelaide

April 27- May 31

Cabaret Festival

Adelaide Festival Centre

June 7-22

Lecture Programs

The Royal Geographical Society of SA holds their monthly meetings at 5:30 pm at St Andrews Parish Centre 43 Church Terrace Walkerville.

Not to be missed would be a presentation by our president Joc about the Lake Eyre Basin Aboriginal Way Map.- an incredible journey
This is scheduled for Thursday May 16th

Other lectures for the remainder of 2019 are:

- June 20th Rob George, about Frank Rees George
Noted explorer of the Eyre Peninsula
- July 18th Dr Stephen Lapidge, Fight Food Waste
- August 15th Hans Gnodke, From Cape to Cairo
- September 19th Dr Alice Gorman, Space Archaeology
- October 17th Dr L Sutherland, Botanical Explanations
- November 21st Dr Paul Willis, questions about large reptile dispersal across Australia and South Pacific