

# YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

## *South Australian Tourist Guide Association*

### SATGA NEWSLETTER

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### Greetings from your Editor,

This is no doubt the time of the year to enjoy a book in front of a warm fire, or perhaps visit your local coffee shop, or head to warmer parts of the country. Our last meet at Adelaide's Desalination Plant was well attended and to refresh our memory here a some of the statistics passed on to us.

Built at Lonsdale at a cost of \$1.83 billion it has the capacity to produce 300 ML/day and will always be at some operational activity. Intake is located at 1.38 km offshore at a depth of 20m where water flows by gravity to a pumping station located in a cavern some 40m below the sea bed. It is then lifted to the processing plant that operates on the reverse osmosis principle (dissolving the salt) and via the use of 35,250 membranes will eventually go to a storage tank of 25million litres. Some hydrated lime is added to the desalinated water to reduce corrosivity and improve taste. The outgoing salty brine enters the gulf of St Vincent about a kilometre from shore and passes through a 650 kw turbine along the way to provide about 2.5% of the electricity required for the plant. There is much rehabilitation visible around the site with over 330,000 local indigenous plants added to the area. This provides a useful habitat for the local bird and animal population. The Desalination plant is connected to the Happy Valley reservoir and its Treatment Plant prior to supplying parts of Adelaide.



P.T.

## The story of Preservation Island



At the time the re-named sailing ship *Sydney Cove* left Calcutta, captain William Clark had no inkling of what was to happen on his way to the 16,000km distant new colony of NSW. The year was 1796 and the plan after teaming up with Robert Campbell was to sail to Port Jackson with a load of rum, Madeira wine, cases of beer, gin and brandy but also barrels of tar, chests of Chinese porcelain, textiles, tea and tobacco. Also several horses and cattle one buggy and one organ made part of the cargo.

Across parts of the Indian Ocean reality hit hard. Gales and high seas damaged sails and caused a leak that required constant pumping. They survived and battled on with more bad weather across the Great Australian Bight and finally stranding near an island off the coast of Van Diemen's Land, later named Preservation Island. Their only hope of rescue now was to be spotted by a passing ship (very slim) or make land using a longboat to the distant shore of the mainland. It was decided that after repairs of the longboat Hugh Thompson and William Clark would take command together with a carpenter named John Bennet and 14 Lascars of Malaysian origin to try to row to port Jackson along the coastline. It was in February 1797 when their small boat was wrecked in the surf of the Ninety Mile Beach what is now part of Victoria. They had all survived and after rescuing some provisions needed to recover from the ordeal. With the longboat out of repairs William Clark wrote in his journal: Wednesday 15 March 1797 beginning our journey to Port Jackson. The details of this 700km trek, the first distant walk of any European and their eventual rescue, their encounters with different aboriginal tribes along the way, their ordeals eventual rescue and what happened to captain Hamilton and his group on Preservation Island are best described in Mark McKenna's book *FROM THE EDGE, Australia's Lost Histories*.

P.T.

## Tourism News

An injection of \$43 million by the State Government in this year's budget was announced recently. The extra cash is aimed at growing the industry's \$6.8 billion visitor economy further and create additional jobs. Marketing to show SA as a premium destination is a priority says Tourism Minister David Ridgway and a focus on target markets around the world should be a part of attracting more visitors. SA Tourism Commission will be behind these campaigns to bring more international visitors, but also increase interstate tourism numbers from key markets in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The Government says it is on track to meet targets for industry growth, but there is room for more to be done. It's about keeping our restaurants and shops busy and the hotels full, but also supporting tourism operators right across the state that form the vital link to a unique experience.

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A \$150 million Aboriginal art and cultures gallery will be the centre piece of a development on the site of the old RAH on North Tce, in the same precinct as the new Space Agency. The gallery would not be "just an art project" or a cultural development but an economic driver to attract tourists from overseas and interstate. SA holds a large collection of important Aboriginal Art works and artefacts as can be seen in the museums 2 floors of valuable works. Also in the same precinct it is hoped to create specific parking for coaches touring Adelaide, Botanic Gardens and Wine Centre.

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### Post of the day

This is in response to a slowdown in tourism along the Great Barrier Reef and a headline "Green activists killing tourism on the reef"

The writer of the response lives near the coast and has a daily walk on the beach spotting coral growth, crabs and sea slugs, turtles and whales in the beautiful blue waters. Sometimes activists live in a parallel universe and have certainly not visited the region to check on reality. The Reef is thriving and all that negative feedback will only drive tourists away, was the final comment. Note: bad publicity can inhibit success.

## Vickers Vimy finds new home

A significant move of Keith and Ross Macpherson Smith's biplane into a new 6 million dollar display hangar will bring the historic flight to visitors and SA residents much closer.

South Australia's most famous sons achieved renown for the first flight from England to Australia in 1919. At the time the Australian government had offered a prize of £10,000 pounds to the first Australian to make the distance in 30 days. The brothers left, with mechanics Bennett and Shiers, from Hounslow, England on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1919, hopping from makeshift landing tracks to Iran, India, Burma, Malaya and Timor, the Vickers Vimy biplane touched down at Fanny Bay on 10<sup>th</sup> December. They had done it in 27 days and 20 hours.

Both pilots were knighted while the mechanics were commissioned and given bars to their Air Force Medals.

Huge crowds met them as they progressed down the Eastern seaboard and finally across to Adelaide, where they landed at Northfield aerodrome.

The aircraft became an icon of technological achievement and is preserved in a hangar at Adelaide Airport.

Keith was born in Adelaide on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1890. and Ross at Semaphore on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1892. Parents were of Scottish decent and the boys were educated at Queens College, North Adelaide. Their father managed a pastoral company at Mutooroo in the far north of the state and both boys became competent horsemen eventually joining the mounted cadets.

Sir Ross Smith was killed on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1922 at Weybridge, England during a test flight for an upcoming round-the-world venture together with his mechanic Bennett. Keith Smith became director of Qantas and died on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1955. Both are buried at the North Road Cemetery. P.T.

## Jimmy James memorial

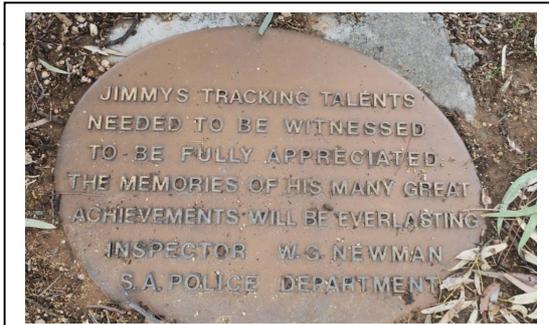
Walking along the Murray River bank at Berri on the other side of the Caravan Park you will find a memorial plaque dedicated to Aboriginal tracker Jimmy James.

He assisted the police for more than 40 years in some of the state's most notable cases. Including the Sundown murders, the Pine Valley murder and the highly publicised 1966 case of 8-year-old Wendy Pfeiffer who was abducted, stabbed and dumped in bushland.

Jimmy came to public prominence again in 1982 when he successfully tracked an escaped child killer, James Smith, through the Riverland for 6 days. Jimmy was awarded the inaugural South Australian Aboriginal of the Year award and an Order of Australia in 1984. He died in October 1991.

He is not the only name to be noted for his skills as a tracker despite the technological advances over decades the accuracy and steadfastness of century old tracking skills remain. Lanky Kana was a Boandika man from the South East and a respected member of the Beachport Police during the early 1900's, he was renowned for his work with the Police Horse Brigade and a street in town is named in his honour.

Warrianha (Alf) Ryan was born at Lyndhurst in the far north in 1889. He joined the police in 1912 when he tracked 2 Yalata labour prison escapees to a farm near Naracoorte, where they had set up camp. In November 1945, he found a 5 year old girl from Bordertown 4 days after she had wandered into thick scrub and became lost. You will find a good tracker totally engrossed in the environment for the entire time of a search.



## Events around Adelaide

Barossa Burn  
Whistler Wines  
July 7

Adelaide Beer and BBQ Festival  
Adelaide Showgrounds  
July 12-14

Umbrella Winter City sounds  
Venues across Adelaide  
July 12-28

Winter Reds  
Adelaide Hills  
July 26-28

Willunga  
Willunga Almond Blossom Festival  
July 27-28

SALA Festival  
Held in unconventional locations like bookshops  
Cafes and even cemeteries exhibiting unique art.  
August 1-31

## Will it fit in my Harbour?

A cruise ship of 184,000 tons, a length of 4 and a half Airbuses A380 in a row, with 20 decks and 23 bars this Gargantuan cruise liner name *AIDAnova* is currently floating in the Mediterranean Sea.

It belongs to Carnival Corporation and will be its biggest ship but only No5 in the world after Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas. Guests in this tropically themed vessel will have plenty to keep them amused. 17 restaurants, 23 bars, a casino, rock climbing walls, mini golf green, a gym and spa are all waiting for you. There is a three-deck high space theatre, a robot bartender and for the VIP guests a two storey penthouse suite with floor-to-ceiling windows.

The ship was built in Papenburg, Germany at a cost of A\$1.2 billion has the usual smiley face on the bow and is claimed to have 'green' credentials as the worlds first cruise ship that can be powered by low-emission LNG at sea and in port. The launch at the end of 2018 attracted 25,000 spectators as it departed the Meyer Werft after a lavish farewell party.