

# YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

## *South Australian Tourist Guide Association*

### SATGA NEWSLETTER

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## NEWSLETTER No 73 June, 2020

Greetings from your Editor,

What a period of history to be talked about for many years. As we are slowly defrosting from weeks of lock-down my appointments diary has tentatively filled once more with reminders.

I am sure you have all tried your best to fill the days at home, perhaps in the garden or maybe equipped with a brush or rolling gear, inside the home to freshen up the paintwork. For me it has given me time to restore an old *Sessions* brand mantle clock and plenty of hours to read. With our local library taking time to normalise their schedule we called in to Stirling where I managed to find some interesting reading material. Author Rob Mundle and his detailed account of *Dampier, The Dutch and Great Southern Land* helped to refresh my knowledge and the fact that even a Pirate or a milder description of the man, Buccaneer can leave his mark in history. Eric Bonython's *Where the Seasons Come and Go* and Francis Ratcliffe's *Flying Fox and Drifting Sand* filled in a lot of gaps for me of the Lake Eyre and Coopers Creek region. Their account of good and bad seasons drive home that climatic changes have been part of this continent for eons.

My last read by Michael Veitch and titled *Hell Ship* turned out to fit in well with epidemics or as we are experiencing right now a pandemic. It is his account of the clipper ship *Ticonderoga* heading for Melbourne in 1852 from Liverpool

With the surgeon William Veitch, his great great grandfather onboard he tells the reader of cramped unhealthy conditions found on board a typical emigrant ship of that era. What happens when Typhus breaks out and the limited medical knowledge with no healing tricks up their sleeve, is well described. When they finally arrived in Port Phillip Bay with the yellow flag on the mast indicating illness much panic hastened the building of a quarantine location on Mornington peninsula. Final count of death was over 120 and it was a further month before the survivors could get to Melbourne. Today we can find a plaque nearby commemorating the tragic event. P.T.

## Fair go for Captain Cook

The current wave of protests highlight the lack of knowledge we can contribute to some of our population in respect to the, at times, upsetting past. Understanding history will always remain a difficult topic as it is reproduced from a range of sources, sometimes arguable flavoured by permitted freedom, or simple bias. History should nevertheless be a source of 'learning' and not adopted as a supply line for snippets, taken as it suits current pressure groups to fit in to their world of utopia.

When it comes to Captain Cook we don't have to heroise this man but we should damn well remember him in books, school lectures and statues. During the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his landing and charting of the east coast of Australia place names and dates come to the fore. It was on April 29<sup>th</sup> that he landed in what became Botany Bay after charting the coast from Point Hicks in Victoria eventually arriving near Cape York on the island named Possession Island. Here he made a claim for the British Crown of all the land he had mapped. During his years at sea he concluded three voyages of discovery arriving at many uncharted corners of the world. He made contact with indigenous people on islands and continents. He achieved high status whilst visiting Hawaii and finally through misunderstanding by the locals met his death on 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1779 at *Kealahakua Bay* (Hawaii) when a hostile crowd battered, stabbed and mutilated his body after shots were heard at the other end of the bay. He had landed for negotiation with the local chief. The crew and Cook came in peace and were not prepared for this attack.



We have all of this year of 2020 to remember him, learn from his adventures on board his ship *Endeavour* and give him a fair go!!!

## **Port Adelaide Railway Museum Visit**

Right now only the information centre of the museum is open but with more freedom soon add this destination to your outings. The history of the OVERLAND train by John Wilson is a new addition to their collection of train books.



### **A conflict of sorts**

On New Year's Day 1915, a little steam engine (now to be viewed in the museum) pulled 40 open trucks on the track between Broken Hill and Silverton. About 1200 men, women and children, the families and friends of members of the combined Manchester Unity Lodges of the district out for a picnic day. The train was puffing along nicely, gradually building up speed as it snaked its way towards the cattle yards on the outskirts of town. The holiday makers full of anticipation of a happy day together with the children, Then the unexpected happened. Seemingly from nowhere shots were heard and the pipeline inspector who rode beside the train on his bicycle fell off without warning. The shots continued and 2 passengers on the train were killed instantly. Several others were wounded and pandemonium broke out as the train screeched to a stop. It was quickly realised that the shooting came from behind an ice-cream cart standing not far from the line. The cart carried a Turkish flag and 2 men were seen running from the cart with Turkish clothing. They were cameleers who sympathised with Turkey in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. 60 year old Mullah Abdulla and a youngster named Gool Mahomed were politically motivated and made it their duty to perform actions in line with their countries belief. However they had little chance against a number of armed men who shot 1 dead and had severely wounded the other. (The wounded man later died in hospital). It was the members from Broken Hill Rifle Club that saved the day.

A search of the area found some papers held down by a rock with foreign script and the subsequent translation read "I kill your people because your people are fighting my country".

I guess the story is of interest but the old steam engine is perhaps a better reason to visit the museum.

PT

## **HER MAJESTY' THEATRE**

The last surviving theatre under the Tivoli chain has reopened in Grote Street, Adelaide. Barry Humphries called it one of his favourite theatres, it has played host to everyone from Luciano Pavarotti to Bill Hayley and the Comets, and it served as the home coming venue for aviators Ross and Keith Smith after they won the 1919 GREAT AIR RACE from England to Australia.

Now 107 years after its construction Her Majesty also just called "The Maj" has been reborn in a meticulous 66 million dollar redevelopment with a completely new inner structure in Art Nouveau style. The theatre features 2 sweeping staircases in its expanded main foyer and reintroduces Edwardian elements, including a pressed metal ceiling and elaborate architraves and plaster mouldings thanks to Cox Architecture and Hansen and Yuncken builders. No one anywhere has taken an Edwardian structure like this and updated it so faithfully but also fit for purpose says Adelaide Festival Chief Douglas Gaultier. Under the rebuild its capacity has been boosted to 1, 467 patrons meaning it will be well placed for National musicals and feature performances in Adelaide.

The Maj has a link to many of the cities biggest artistic names, starting almost a Century ago when song writer Paul Kelly's grandfather launched his own local Opera Company there. The Theatre is a great survivor coming through 2 World Wars, the age of television and the threat of cinema.

Information obtained from recent local Newspaper article. Unfortunately the opening has been delayed and we will have to wait a little longer to again enjoy performances in this historical theatre.

## Keep dreaming

Virgin Airlines founder Sir Richard Branson has his fingers in many pies. With the Australian arm of his airline enterprise currently looking for new owners and his UK mainstream flight business also requiring funds to survive, he simply concentrates on other projects. Away from a pleasure island and flights into space we see cruising taking his attention, with a brand new pleasure ship, the Scarlet Lady planned to come into action by October this year .



All looked good for a first cruise to the Bahamas prior to world restrictions. This lady is not your standard cruise ship throwing all the current rules out the window. The focus is on 18+ youngsters taking on new standards of eating, entertainment, sleeping and spare time. This is 'Razzle Dazzle' land under palm trees next to the pool with a top DJ supplying the music. You will find no buffet and no set dinner time but a cooking school added to each restaurant. There is a boxing ring for entertainment. A tattoo parlour and much water sport. For the well-heeled youngster a choice of a rock star suite is available fitted with hot tub and stocked with soda, bottled water, coffee and tea. All Wi-Fi use is included with no extra charge, while 87% of Staterooms have a balcony and tours in the Bahamas aim for private beach enjoyment. Will the Scarlet Lady sail in October for her maiden cruise or do we keep on dreaming? For the mums and dads that are struggling to find a different present to give their youngsters, consider the experience of a lifetime. Perhaps you are allowed to get on board as chaperone to keep an eye on behaviour.

P.T.

## What we could have enjoyed

After a cancelled History Month of May more events and venues unfortunately have been cancelled.

CABARET FESTIVAL

GUITAR FESTIVAL

FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

TASTING AUSTRALIA

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

And many local events in regions of SA  
Let us hope that soon the restrictions will be eased and life returns to some better ways to fill our pastime .

## More Cruising News

After 140 days at sea the *Artania* has finally landed her last 8 passengers in the port of Bremerhaven, in Germany on June 6<sup>th</sup>. They started their cruise back in December 2019.

Big American owned lines Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruises are lobbying federal and state governments for a return to cruising this summer. All Australian activity has been suspended until at least September 17, but operators are hopeful they can restart operations from October/November in time for the traditional summer cruise season. They point to regional contribution to tourism, sale of produce and employment. The health focus will need a complete new approach not only on board ( serving of all meals away from helping yourself) and filtering of air-conditioning to a much higher standard, but also individual proof of health standard, perhaps almost a certificate of fitness to travel. The smaller line Norwegian Cruises will not return until the 2021-2022 season. This includes the Norwegian Star and refurbished Norwegian Spirit.

(extra note: virtual tour guiding from home was never successful)

P.T.