

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

I like to start my editorial with a headline slogan from a travel section in the paper.

SEA YOU SOON let's celebrate your return to travel in 2022 with Holland America Line. If only it would be so simple. Overseas arrivals by sea are still a dream well in to next year with no clearance from the Federal Government as yet. But, for enthusiasts loving that ocean air we have a number of 'coast-hugging' exploration vessels taking you to the outer Great Barrier Reef, the Kimberley's coastline and the Southern Ocean. If that is not exciting for you take up one of the overseas offers. *Viking Cruises* will tempt the traveller with a World – Cruise during 2023 and into 2024. Currently advertising big savings and a Business Class Flight included. Full vaccination and a clearance check prior to travel are a requirement.

We held our AGM at the usual place in North Adelaide in November and listened to a brief layout from guest speaker Shaun de Bruyn about the functions of the Tourism Business Council SA. With 576 businesses from over 1,000 members registered as accredited to tourism standards the organisation is proud to see ongoing interest in hospitality and tour operations in many country regions. However a survey result recorded only 30% doing fine and 57% experiencing difficulties. Overall a financial drop of 25% in turnover linked to tourism is noted in the State. It was revealed that local operators have to combine all facets of tourism including their own guiding to be profitable.

The meeting approved a steering committee as suggested and acknowledged the good work our two retiring members Christine C and Dita T had contributed over the years. Due to a reduced workload we only need to replace one new committee member from two volunteers. With his previous experience always an asset we welcome Christopher S. and also thank Graham B. for his interest. Monika C. Di M. Mary G. Joc and myself will look after the affairs of SATGA as well for the coming year. P.T.

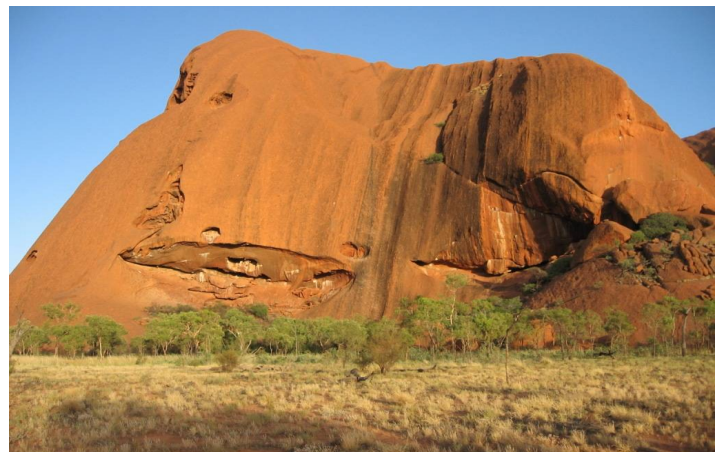
Longitude 131

One of Australia's eco-luxury estates in areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and environmental excellence is no doubt the Baillie operated Longitude 131, located near the Uluru/Kata Tjuta National Park.

I shall however concentrate on this longitude which is only 2 degrees from the boundary line between WA and SA from a different point of interest. Under the reign of Premier Henry Ayres in 1872 the explorer Gosse discover the rock and named it Ayers Rock. He camped nearby creating his depot No 16 where he found a fine spring. Other explorers trying to open the way between SA and the west at that time included Gregory and Giles. But my attention is drawn to both John and Alexander Forrest ancestors of a well known iron ore king also known as "Twiggy Forrest"

On September 6th in 1874, a Sunday they camped at longitude 131 marking a tree and calling the site camp 85 since departing from Geraldton in March. When the party reached their destination, the Telegraph Line between Adelaide and Darwin, they had good reason to celebrate, but soon continued via the nearby Peake Station to reach Adelaide in November. This was Forrest's third expedition after taking an unsuccessful search for Ludwig Leichhardt and also retracing Eyre's steps of 1841 this time from west to east the same longitude became a camp along the way close to Fowler's Bay. Their welcome in Adelaide brought great crowds to the streets and certainly formed close links with the west, somewhat different to today's difficulties entering the sacred kingdom of WA.

A view of the mighty "Rock"



PT

Beerenberg Upgrades

Another icon of South Australia is no doubt Beerenberg the supplier of strawberry products in the Adelaide Hills near Hahndorf. The Paech family arrived in 1839 on board the *Zebra*, settled in the area and made their mark. They have now unveiled after 8 months a \$2.6 million upgrade including a museum, a demo kitchen and function area. This has certainly grown in to a must visit destination to take tour groups from future visitors to SA as well as satisfying your own appetite for tasty strawberries

On the funny side

A perfect copy of Michelangelo's David, sent with great fanfare from Italy for display at the Dubai Expo recently, has been partly covered to protect its modesty.

The copy of the world's most famous nude, which was made of resin using laser scans and 3D printing and finished with marble dust to look authentic, had been created to adorn the Italian pavilion at the six month expo. But rather than show David in his full glory organisers had to come up with alternate display ideas after complaints by Emiratis. It therefore was positioned on a two floor level arrangement with the 5m statue stand in a case made of columns and glass, which starts on one floor and extends to the one above. Visitors to the upper floor can only see David's head and shoulders and although the statue's nether regions are visible from the floor below, that space is open only to VIP's, diplomats and realists with an open mind. David Rampello (yes, a different David) the artistic director, denied the report claiming embarrassment by the Emiratis said that the aim of the exhibit was to bring visitors face-to-face with David. Italian workers who installed the statue see it a little differently and said: "We even considered putting underpants on him "

Eden Valley

Wine experts have coined the 2021 vintage as a near-perfect drop so the downturn of sales to China can certainly give all locals a great opportunity to find no shortage of good wine. The gross value of exports to September 30, 2020 have again risen to almost \$3 billion from a low of \$2,3 billion in 2019. From a third place behind China and the US the UK will now sweep into first place with a value of \$460 million .

The latest vintage with a total of 2 million tons from the key wine regions is the largest ever recorded and about 17% up from average.

As rated by Halliday the majority by far, a total of 33 wineries out of 100 come from South Australia. This time McLaren Vale heads the list with the Adelaide Hills, Barossa and Eden Valley next. Henschke's Julius Riesling scored 98 out of 100 points and is good to drink until 2034 and the Teusner Empress is not far behind. Apart from good wines we have the Kaiserstuhl (King's Seat)and Pewsey Peak nearby and plenty of walking trails to explore. Also in the area is the Gnadenberg church, trademark for Hill of Grace one of the top single vineyard landmarks proudly displayed by producer Henschke.



This lovely cottage is on the property of wine producer Brockenshack near Keyneton in the Eden Valley. Apart from making top wines from vineyards in higher altitudes to the Barossa Valley we find top accommodation nearby to suit up to six persons. How much truth is in the local anecdote referring to the wine tasting building having doubled as a place of ill repute in earlier years, has to be judged carefully. Is the wear and tear of the slate entrance step sufficient to give proof or is this perhaps a good mere story to tell.

P.T.

Poor Albert Clark

There is an ornate drinking fountain in Elder Park. The plaque on it explains that it was erected as a memorial to Fireman Gardner in 1887. A fitting memorial to a brave man, but on Christmas Eve 1886, when the named Fireman lost his life in a disastrous fire in Rundle Street, another fireman also died in the same inferno. His name was Albert Clark. So why is he not mentioned on the memorial his family would wonder. 25 year old Clark was a son of an O'Connell Street blacksmith. He was also a prominent footballer and member of the Adelaide Football Club, the then Premiers of SA as well as a good cricketer, in short a well known, well liked local lad. However John Gardner was older, aged 30, still single and only been in the Colony for 2 years. The fire in which the two young men died was a huge one with an estimated damage of £ 60,000. In 1886 that was a mammoth amount. The cause of the fire was attributed to ribbons and other soft materials blowing in the breeze across a gas jet. Gardiner and Clark were fighting the fire within the doomed Castle and Co Drapers business and they were told to abandon that task and help out in Cunningham's next door. They had only just entered when it collapsed around them. The drama was witnessed by onlookers who then attempted a rescue, but Clark himself remained trapped. Eventually taken to the Globe Hotel nearby and finally to the Adelaide Hospital where he died from his burns and injuries. John Gardner was completely buried under the debris and not discovered until Christmas morning. There is no doubt that poor young Albert should be mentioned along with John Gardner.

P T

Events around Adelaide

December 3-24

Santa's Wonderland
Adelaide Showground

December 12-31

The Lights of Lobethal
(largest community display now in the 60th year)

December 16-20

Cricket test v England
Adelaide Oval

January 15-22

Victor Harbor Art Show

January 21-23

Tunarama Festival
Port Lincoln

January 21-29

Festival of Cycling

Wishing you all a

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

