

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

Welcome to the Chinese year of the Tiger a fighting 'never give up' animal. I guess we should all look at this New Year with much hope to changes leading to a better outcome for the industry all around.

SA Tourism chief Rodney Harrex links Feb. 21, the date we are opening up to international tourism as the moment of re-start. Qantas will relaunch six international routes in coming weeks on the back of this border announcement, and as foreign airlines return to services to Australia. CEO Andrew David said bookings for flights coming into the country doubled within 24 hours of the announcement.

Two years ago we welcomed 64 international carriers to Australia but in October last year it had shrunk to only 38. By March 29 British Airways plans to return with flights via Singapore and Air Asia will be back with flights from Kuala Lumpur to Sydney. Bali and Manila are on the return schedule, but NZ have not moved so far. Their tentative date is no earlier than July.

But with such an ever changing list of rules and regulations tourism moved from one crisis to the other. The latest dilemma is linked to staff shortages in the hotel and hospitality industry.

Not surprisingly anyone needing full time employment will move on as the need arises.

This will also apply to guides once cruising and international visitors return to desired destinations. SATGA's latest record of members shows a total of 23 still attached to our organisation with 13 listed as active guides.

I believe that we all realise that doors have to be opened to attract younger members for both committee work and future guiding opportunities. Ideas to link this need to an introductory package of tourism requirements be it via training direct or via other institutions suitable to take on board such courses are to be discussed at committee level.

We will also announce soon our first Famil for this year to give members a return for their loyalty. P.T.

We Love our Coffee Fix

Australia is quickly becoming not only the country of mainly coffee drinkers but we have also taken espresso from the Italians and perfected it our own way.

We have exported our version to the world and you will now find London, New York, Paris and Tokyo full with flat white drinkers. However our local growing industry is small with only 600 tons produced in the tropical regions while we import around 80,000 tons from mainly Kenya, Ethiopia, Brazil and Costa Rica. I'd like to have a look at how these beans also known as cherries made it as a ground version to our coffee pots, cups and mugs.



Between the 14th and 18th century making coffee meant grinding beans and boiling the resulting powder. But soon improvements were made to capture this alluring and aromatic taste. The coffee pot first appeared in Ethiopia and was called 'jabena'. With introduction of fine china and sliver sediment was the next item to discard. This was done by placing the ground beans in fine cotton cloth. By 1800 coffee very much rivalled tea across Europe. It was usually drunk black and strong in tiny cups with brass samovars used to heat the water on top of spirit burners. In France the two part coffee pot became popular where water was poured through ground coffee in the top part and collected in a jug below. Robert Napier an Englishman (note he was not a tea drinker) developed the siphon in 1850 allowing coffee liquid to be moved separate from the grain for pouring. This invention is the base for modern hotplate heated versions used since the 1960's. The café-espresso machine was invented by Edouard Loysel in Paris in 1854. It was copied by many and in America the electric pump percolator became popular. By 1906 the Bezzera company of Italy took the lead in manufacturing Caffee Espresso machines and Moka remains a classic. Machines usually set brewing temp. at 34 ° to be served about 28 °. Enjoy your next cup.

P.T.

For the Coffee Connoisseur

If you would like to have an experience to reflect upon try a cuppa of filtered coffee from a top barrister in Adelaide's City precinct. At 'A Kingdom For A Horse' located in Sturt Street near Whitmore Square your wish may be granted. Be adventurous and try it out, I love to hear from you.

Don't forget to have a giggle

One youngster says to the other: do you say a prayer before you eat? He answers: my mum is Italian and she knows how to cook.

Back in my days the only time we faced panic buying is when the bartender shouted, Last Call

Also a few complaints received by the Housing Commission.

-Will you please send a man to look at my water? It is a funny colour and not fit to drink.

- The 18 year old lad from next door is continually banging his balls against my fence.

- The toilet is blocked so we can not bath the children until it is cleared.

- The man next door has a large erection in his garden which is unsightly and dangerous.

- Will you please send someone to mend the garden path, my wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.

- I wish to complain that my father hurt his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.

- I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.

Bring on the Rain

Some readers may ask where to find this sudden news - worthy place called Glendambo. I will help you somewhat. You travel the Stuart Highway north of Port Augusta and come to the Woomera turn-off after about 173km. Not there as yet, you have a further 113km to drive and should you miss it, the next turn-off will get you to Coober Pedy.

The headlines right now have focused on an extreme event perhaps, but a great happening for the outback. Yes, the train track is still damaged and the road can only just be re-used with caution after some 24hour falls of 200mm plus in areas nearby.

Let's try to put this in to some reality of the region by visiting the great outdoor man Eric Bonython, who in his book: *Where the seasons come and go* visited locals from Marree to Birdsville in different years and times of drought and falling rains. This is reality speech with recorded figures between 1921 and 1975. During that time period Coopers Creek flooded six times and filled completely to a depth of 3.7m in 1950. This was beaten further in 1974/75 when a depth of 6m left the mark. Now we know that in more recent years this filling event has happened a few more times subject to a lot of rain in catchment areas in Queensland. Sadly a station on the way to Birdsville called Mulka has had many years of very poor rainfall with only 17.5mm in 1929 and 42mm in 1927. We now get some idea what a figure of 200mm is all about, even Adelaide jumps with joy if we have an annual rainfall of 600mm.



Glendambo after the rain

(This photo was snapped on a return journey from Darwin some years back)

Some aerial photos show green carpets and lots of ponds that will hopefully attract much wildlife and bring tourists to the region once our temperatures moderate a little. P.T.

