

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

In my last newsletter I praised the success of the WEA training sessions for basic Tourism knowledge. It is now my pleasure to welcome new members to the SATGA committee after a very enthusiastic Annual Meeting earlier this month. With twenty attendees and a guest speaker of renown the meeting progressed with positive feedback and an extended exchange between members while taking a drink and light refreshments afterwards. A warm welcome to Maxine F. Pauline C. Andrea A. and Peter C. as our new committee members joining Di, Monika, Joc, Christopher, Mary and myself. I am convinced that this group will contribute to our future progress. A big thank you to Mary Graham for organising our guest speaker Geoff Speirs who practically covered three topics in his well researched presentation. Geoff as a member of the Professional Historian Assoc. gave the meeting a good overview of the early Aboriginal settlement of the continent and the clash of civilisations once white settlers arrived. His final part covered the high points of South Australia's development, the impact of finding minerals, in particular copper. I will expand on that highlight in a further article.

The cruise season is in full swing around Australia and in Adelaide we have so far had seven cruise ships visiting our main Port and for some also KI and Port Lincoln.

We have been active giving new members who are interested in doing guiding work the chance to shadow more experienced guides on short Adelaide and Hills tours. Reports coming back after tours are mixed and certainly point to new suggestions for improvements. Shortcomings are best shared with our Liaison team Joc and myself. On the national front Tourism Australia is working hard to attract international interest once more and hopes to increase visitor numbers to something near the 9.5 million we had prior to Covid. At a launch in New York, the managing director Philippa Harrison emphasised the challenges ahead to make this happen, with diversity and new markets a must.
P.T.

The Mintaro Story

Known for its flagstone quarry and location in the Clare wine district this township has a mixed past of some interest. Laid out in 1849 on land purchased by Henry Gilbert it was planned to be a stopping place for movement of copper ore from nearby Burra on the way to Port Wakefield for loading.



Old Mintaro Cottage

The Patent Copper Company using bullocks to transport the ore along the Gulf Road soon struck problems with heavy loads. So they decided to employ mules from South America with their Spanish-speaking *muleteers* to replace them. They were a colourful breed; dark, mustachiod, and wearing large sombreros, gaily- coloured ponchos and immense jingling spurs which had rowels as large as their palms. As many as 50 at a time camped near Mintaro, spending nights in a riot of fighting and drinking. This continued for about 4 years until the copper teams were re-routed to Riverton to the new Railway terminus that connected on to Gawler and Adelaide. Mintaro's Hotel, The Magpie and Stump Hotel goes back to those heady days, but it is a misconception to have the name Mintaro (in Spanish meaning 'resting place') associated with the muleteers.

P.T.

Early Manufacturing

In the 19th Century, Adelaide was literally a hive of industry with all manner of manufacturing taking place within its central square mile. Fortunately for today's citizens, it was all shifted to more appropriate locations long ago and there are no clues left of the foundries, factories and saw mills that gave employment to thousands. One of the first industries was a soap and candle factory established by William Burford near the corner of Grenfell Street and East Terrace in late 1839. When it burnt down in 1885 it was left conveniently to start Adelaide's first Power Station the Adelaide Electric Supply Company which is today occupied by the Aboriginal Arts Centre Tandanya.

From the early 1840's there were a number of foundries in the city and their furnaces could produce casting of 30 cwt or more. Their output ranged from heavy mine machinery and structural members to the decorative lace work which is such a feature of many Adelaide houses, much of it produced by A C Harley's Sun Foundry in Hindley Street. Harley also made the Cresswell Gardens Arch near the Adelaide Oval. John Wyatt and his sons George and Henry, moved their foundry site from Grenfell Street to North Terrace where today Hotels and apartments stand. Major firms such as Perry Engineering and Horwood Bagshaw also had their origins in Adelaide foundries. The cast iron fencing around the University of Adelaide along Victoria Drive and Frome Road was made by G E Fulton and Co and was originally erected in Victoria Square in 1881.

In 1929 after another change to the square the fencing was relocated to the University although Fulton had an office and showroom in the city, their foundry was actually located at Parkside.

Some of the gate posts, veranda posts and downpipes found on old buildings around Adelaide still carry the manufacturing logos of the above makers.

P.T.

Visit to Lot 14

Situated on the site of the Old Royal Adelaide Hospital, this is a world class innovation district dedicated to driving productivity in emerging industries and solving complex global challenges that lead to greater economic, social and cultural prosperity. Over 1380 people share work spaces supporting a dynamic community of global companies. The site is a work in progress with many of the original buildings given a face lift including Margaret Graham and Eleanor Harrald Buildings.

There will also be an Entrepreneur and Innovation Centre and Hub and many other future development opportunities. The Community Café and Bar has been retained as part of the heritage of the site.



SATGA members and friends

Also planned for the future on the Lot14 complex is the Aboriginal Art Centre Tarrkarri which will enhance first nation culture and make its mark once completed about 2025. Much of the cultural material is currently stored in a former printing works. This will be one of three centres in Australia addressing a notable absence in the nation's stock of cultural institutions. Alice Springs will gain the National Aboriginal Art gallery after the NT government moved to acquire the Anzac Oval site rather against the wishes of traditional owners and the local council.

Many thanks to Monika for arranging this Famil.

P.T.

Peron the Conspirator

Francois Peron the ambitious, patriotic naturalist on board Nicholas Baudin's frigate *Le Geographe* has been suspected by many historians as a bit of a spy. A translated account of his well titled volume *French Designs on Colonial New South Wales* are pointing to plans of a possible takeover of the lightly protected colony after a visit there at the time of meeting with Mathew Flinders. Not only did he believe that the true purpose of the expedition to the south seas was more political than scientific but by forwarding the collected information to superiors in Paris upon his return (Baudin had died in Mauritius just before Flinders limped in with a poorly constructed ship on his return to England) he expected some reward and some action from his exercise of persuasion. Peron was thinking as a soldier not as a scientist and his views evolved from that point of view. His initial brief recommended destroying the outpost only, but soon turned in to a complete takeover.

Closer to South Australia he raised a storm with his first published volume in France by substituting many names given by Flinders to discoveries made ahead of Baudin.

For example Spencer Gulf became Golfe Bonaparte and Gulf St Vincent took the name of Golfe Josephine. Kangaroo Island became Ile Decres and the top of the pops was Port Lincoln, on his French map Port Champagne.

My note:

I can't see much wrong with the last renaming as a good tourist attraction.

P.T.

Events around Adelaide

January 13-22

Tour Down Under

5 Stages including, Barossa, Victor Harbour, Adelaide suburbs and Willunga

6 January

Lunch on the lawns of Government House

10-13 February

Tall Ships Parade, Hobart

10-13 March

WOMADelaide

For something different you can mark a 4 day "Flavours of Adelaide" set for 24th March, 2nd June or 18th August. It includes 4 night's at the Eos Sky City, a 4 course dinner at the Collaborators at the Central Market, blending bench at D'Arenberg, tasting of vintage tawney at Seppelts, the ultimate 5 course and tasting at the Magill Estate and a visit to Maggie Beer's Farmshop.

For more info contact VIVA Holidays

Should you have plans to visit KI as your next destination include a visit to the False Cape Winery where you can have a good tasting and local food. They are connected to the Lake Breeze Winery in Langhorne Creek.

The Museum in Parndana to me has some of the best originals connected to the Island including a good map of shipwrecks along the coast and don't forget to call in to the replica build of the Independence situated in the big shed at American River.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all SATGA members and friends

