

# YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

## *South Australian Tourist Guide Association*

### SATGA NEWSLETTER

SATGA Secretary: [satgasecretary@outlook.com](mailto:satgasecretary@outlook.com)

[www.satourguides.org.au](http://www.satourguides.org.au)

Editor: Peter Tamm

[peterktamm@gmail.com](mailto:peterktamm@gmail.com)

#### NEWSLETTER No 86 February 2023

Greetings from your Editor,

The cruise season is well on its way and most of our guides have been active at some point.

We have however a mixed bag of 'smooth sailing' with tours to report.

Not surprising to see the operators working with skeleton staff, but also with the most basic understanding of destinations and timing and as we have done in the past our knowledge and experience has benefitted the success of a tour. From completely wrong tour descriptions to booking errors timing on some tours is an ongoing issue. With your help your association will give a season review as reported to the interstate operators and hope for better preparedness when a new arrival list is available. On the positive side I like to report that the National Wine Centre has been included as a choice and Lambert Estate has made an appearance as a top destination for food and wine, located in the Barossa Valley near Angaston. Some of you are also involved in interstate work and local train walking tours, this could be a further opportunity for new guides in the future. Our committee meeting at the start of February was well attended and good ideas have been shared with members. The first Familiarisation outing is planned for March 22/23. A visit to the Mortlock Library with the help of Joc S. and his contacts to the Royal Geographic Society members.

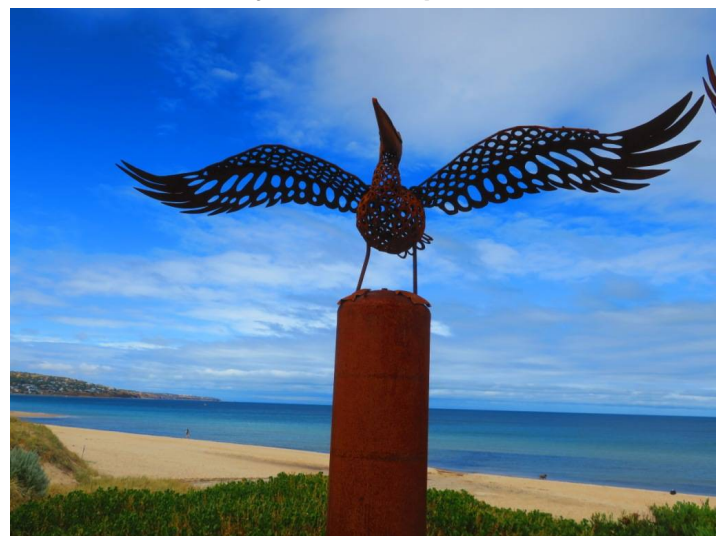
General news from major tourism centres points to good results in hotel occupancy rates due to a return of international visitors with an average of 1520 flights per week arriving in Australia. Linked to that activity however are flight delays and cancelled flights with one example I have come across where a person flying between Adelaide and Sydney being re-directed via Melbourne and from there via Jet-Star International to Sydney. The time taken was similar flying Adelaide to Singapore.

The second WEA training course is well planned for March and should you know of interested friends that would like to branch out into tourism this basic introduction will certainly help. The same training team will be giving their knowledge. P.T.

#### Glenelg or Brighton

Visiting both of Adelaide's prime beachside suburbs recently I can not come away completely neutral this time. While Holdfast Bay ( Glenelg) will remain the first landing place and the memorial is proof of that and with similar quality in sand and water compared to Brighton I am not convinced that a ferris wheel enclosed with advertising boards and an expensive sit above sand under marquee cover rental to take a drink or bite to eat makes the grade. The shopping precinct re-work adds more interruption to a destination I would normally recommend to all visitors. Getting there by tram from the city is the extra bonus.

At Brighton however the esplanade gives plenty of choices for drinks and food. Sitting anywhere outside is a pleasure and a recent art exhibition by the sea gave that extra drive to visit. Many sculptures along the promenade had been sold by the time I visited and on the greens nearby a large tent displayed further art treasures. This was well rewarded for a day out at our prime coastline.



Work of art at Brighton Beach

P.T.

### Menge or Mengler

Regular tours to the Barossa valley would include a brief look at Bethany ( original Bethanien) and the popular Lookout in the Barossa Range with a sculpture park and a pioneer memorial known as Menglers Hill.

Johannes Menge also known as Josef was a mineralogist and geologist initially employed by the South Australian Company to conduct surveys on Kangaroo Island. After quarrelling bitterly with his English paymasters, Menge instead became the eyes and ears of London-based banker and businessman George Fife Angas. On a survey expedition together with John Flaxman, Menge was struck by the topography of a broad valley. Its parklike landscape of grassland and stands of red and blue gums. He dubbed the valley 'New Silesia' and wrote to Angas that while the landscape was reminiscent of an English country estate, it also bore resemblance to the Rhone Valley which he had visited before.

*" You may confidently put vines round Flaxman's Valley, the Rhine Valley ( now Eden Valley ), or for luxurious harvests and I am satisfied that New Silesia will furnish the province with such a quantity of wine that we shall drink it as cheap as in Cape Town "*

Shall we now call him the father of the wine growing region or just a man with a vision. Other records give that honour to Arthur Fiedler who imported cuttings in 1841 from the Cape Province in South Africa.

Now to the other name, a J.C.G. Ernst Mengler, originally a miner from Lauthenthal near Hanover. He settled on a property at the foot of what we now know as Mengler's Hill. His son Ernst W.W. Mengler had the first section of a two storeyed stone cellar built in 1900 with an extension in 1907. For that family winemaking ceased many years ago and the old cellars have been converted into a residence.

Please note: this information comes from an old Barossa book kept in the Nuriootpa Library I was lucky to borrow for a while.

P.T.

### Largs Bay

Staying with seaside suburbs here is another story about a location we drive past regularly on return to the cruise ships. Largs Bay was a name suggested by Alexander Lang Elder as suitable for the bay in the gulf and because it reminded him of the Largs in the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. In 1873, a company was formed called the Largs Bay Land Company with the anticipated Government approval of a big harbour scheme. When it was not approved the company decided to make it a popular seaside resort. In 1882 building blocks were up for sale and a 700m long Jetty was built together with the Railway extension to Glanville it drew in the crowds. For some 20 years Largs Bay flourished because of the passenger ships arriving from Europe particularly England.

Because of the low water passengers still had to be off-loaded in launches and these were then attached to special mooring anchors. Once ashore however the facilities were better due to a relatively modern pier hotel. Many new arrivals would be taken by their SA relatives to stay there for a welcome dinner and to get their land legs back to normal. It was not until 1908 that the Government was able to get the funds to get deep sea wharfs at Outer Harbor, this was a God send to the passengers who did not have to go through the unpleasantness in tossing launches. Today Largs Bay has lost the hustle and bustle of seeing passengers arriving on large PO liners, it has just become another sea side suburb for summer weekenders. Check out the Centenary Cairn as a source of interest as well as the special anchor when stopping there next time



Pier Hotel

P.T.

### Escape to our Gardens

When the Scot, John Harvey arrived in 1839 in South Australia he took up many acres of land between Adelaide and the Salisbury Plains.

He became a popular and hard working resident and was soon rewarded as Yatala district M.P. for the first S.A. Parliament and because of his interest in agriculture and flowers he also joined the Royal Agriculture Society. Harvey next perused an old European (flower) catalogue and read the description of a flower called 'Soursop'- we now know as soursob.

He decided to import some and for 2/6 received a pot of bulbs from Cape Town. He would thin them out carefully and plant them at Salisbury Plains.

The soursobs thrived under his careful treatment of weeding around them and liberally watering them. In the following year John Harvey had a glorious display of yellow flowers. Word soon passed around the district and to Adelaide itself, with the result that a host of visitors went to his home to admire the new blooms. In 1859 the Botanic Gardens had joined the excitement and soursobs were grown there as well and listed under 'more specimens of plants and flowers !'

Since that time the soursobs have spread everywhere and it is certain that John Harvey would turn in his grave if he could hear the remarks made by men and women whose hobby is gardening.

Note: now that we know who to blame the task of elimination is still as arduous as ever. One tip is to wait until flowers have set before removal, it weakens the bulb and retards growth.

P.T.

### Events around Adelaide

#### 4-9 March

Adelaide Writer' Week  
Pioneer Women's Memorial Gardens

#### 10-13 March

WOMADelaide

#### March 31- April 2

Food, Wine & Cooking Show  
At the Adelaide Showgrounds

#### March 25-26

Adelaide Motorsport Festival

#### April 1-2

Vintage Vibes Festival  
At Tomich Winery Woodside

#### April 19-23

Barossa Vintage Festival  
Celebrating 75 years of Festivals to acknowledge the current vintage this is the longest running regional Festival in Australia.

The Royal Geographic Society SA is planning

### Day Cruise on board PS Marion

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, departing 8:00am from the CBD

For details check out their website

Photo taken at Punyarroo near Swan Reach

