

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

The current Australian Circle- Liner, the *Grand Princess* has now visited Adelaide for the second time. This time making the headlines perhaps stronger in regards to health issues. It was reported that the usual 'ship-bug' had been added to Corona virus cases. How bad and how many cases nobody knew. The media tried hard to lock the health experts in to publishing some kind of health protocol to ensure the public that monitoring and sanitisation was up to standard.

But it seems that with major events taking place around the city (we just had the Christmas Pageant and a Motor Race is coming up next) spooking the public into a protection phase is not on the government's agenda.

I have since spoken to a passenger on board the ship who had some mixed information. Yes, cleaning inside out had taken place and with the new influx of passengers in Melbourne many of the isolated passengers had departed, but others continued with illness in lock-ups.

I am sure this vessel will be monitored constantly as it continues around the coast of Australia.

On the brighter side is the recognition of K.I. as one of the major destinations for world travellers and Adelaide's title as the No1 culinary capital in the country.

Major cities around the country will have many additions to their flight routes with both Sydney and Brisbane scoring most. But Adelaide now has extra flights to Bali (Batik Air) Ho Chi Min City (Viet Jet) as well as Doha (Qatar Airways) and Singapore. Unfortunately none of the larger aircraft will make it to Adelaide. One destination to me would be of value. A direct flight to and from Christchurch in NZ. My return recently from there connected Christchurch with Sydney and on home. Others we met had to rise at 3:00am to make the flight to Melbourne and connect to the home run. You feel like you have just arrived from distant places.

P.T.

On The Sheep's Back

On a recent visit to NZ one can not avoid seeing plenty of sheep, deer and possums.

Most of the wool in NZ is of a courser nature suitable for producing carpets, but they also have a Merino blend of sheep, (represented on this photo as the king of the flock).



Fine wool Merinos originally bred in Spain and guarded by their king made their way to Saxony in Germany and a few to England where they generally used course fibre from Lincolns, Leisters and South Downs breeds. The merinos had reached the colony of NSW from a variety of places but it is recorded that Henry Waterhouse and William Kent imported 13 of their kind from the Cape of Good Hope in 1796. We generally connect John Macarthur with the eventual import and cross breeding from stock owned by King George III in 1801. From this Camden Park flock some 77kg made its way back to England to be turned into fine cloth. This wool gained the admiration of George III and by 1813 some 3,600kg had been sent over. Macarthur was convinced that wool would be the gold mines of this country and of great importance for the future. By 1820 flocks had been expanded and reached the other side of the Blue Mountains so that some 45,000 kg could be shipped to England. Today we admire the empty wool stores in the old Port Adelaide once operated by Elders and Goldsbrough Mort.

P.T.

Water Supply

One of the key reasons for choosing the site of Adelaide was the supply of water available from the River Torrens. In the early days energetic citizens filled their own barrels and dragged them home. Others sunk wells in their yards or collected rain water from their roofs but quickly found the shingle tiles and wooden gutters stained the water and made it unsuitable for drinking. Very soon most people relied on water carters who delivered to their door. The principal place for filling carts was near the ford about half way between King William and Morphett Sts. Unfortunately, the Torrens soon became the cities rubbish dump and therefore the water consumed was significantly polluted. By 1849 the Adelaide City Council installed a steam powered pump near the ford to raise the water into tanks from which the carters would fill their barrels charging one penny for 48 pints. In 1852 pumps were installed near today's Parliament House until the Torrens Gorge was dammed in 1855 near Athelstone. Now the 13kms supply to the city was via Thorndon Park Reservoir operated by the Adelaide Water Works and Drainage Commission completed in 1858. As supply expanded beyond the city, service reservoirs were constructed in the parklands. Port Adelaide was supplied from a reservoir near the intersection of Barton Tce and O'Connell St. It was built of brick in 1878 and is still a part of water supply system today. The other parkland reservoir was constructed near the intersection of East and South Terraces and built to supply Glenelg from 1881. It had an earth-covered roof consisting of arched concrete panels supported by iron beams and 58 columns. It could hold 850,000 gallons but was taken out of service in 1928 and filled in completely in 1982. Earth was heaped up and over the walls so the size and shape of the original structure can be seen today as a mound. Also remaining is a section of the original wrought iron fence made by Bayliss Jones and Bayliss which is located adjacent to the croquet club. Nearby is a bench mark No 10 indicating that water pipes were located at the correct depth.

P.T.

Felixstow- South Australia

Here is another interesting story about the naming of some of our suburbs.

The Felixstow area was first owned by the SA Company in 1838 for investment purposes and in 1842 the Company rented some 60 acres to the Rev. T.Q. Stow. Stow had been sent out from England by the Missionary Society of England, but he had no stipend to live on, so he tried to work the land as a farm. He named his first house "Felixstow" after a village on the coast of Suffolk which actually has the "e" on the end of the word. Because the property was large, Stow needed an experienced and capable man to help inaugurate plans for fruit orchards. He selected Charles Pitt. Pitt was born in Kingston, Cambridgeshire, where he had been a farm overseer arriving in the New Colony on the "Mariner" in 1847 together with his wife and 4 sons. After about a year in the employ of Stow, Pitt decided to buy some land himself and in 1854 managed 12½ acres - mainly because 2 of his sons had made some money in the Victorian goldfields.

Pitt's property was named "Marden" and his home of "Willowbank" was owned by the Pitt family for over a century until sold to the SA Housing Trust.

During the time that Pitt was working on the Felixstow property Thomas Stow worked hard in various other ways. He was known as the "father of Congregationalism" in South Australia for his work with the church. Apart from his farm and orchard, he was also busy running a school where among the scholars were his sons - Jefferson who became a journalist and Editor of the *Advertiser* - Augustine became a member of Parliament and was chief secretary in 1870 - Wycliffe a lawyer, while Randolph also a lawyer became a QC and later was a judge of the Supreme court.

The Reverend T.Q. Stow died in 1862 and his wife 5 years later but they left to SA permanent memories of the Stow Church as well as some very bright, intelligent sons and a district named Felixtow which includes the family name,

P.T.

Willows care of Napoleon

This story relates to our first willows planted on the river Murray by Edward John Eyre (specifically at Moorundie near Blanchtown where he was appointed as the Protector of Aborigines).

He planted cuttings from willows grown on Napoleons grave at St Helena. This being a regular stop for sailing ships bringing emigrants down under it certainly is possible. A Robert Davenport has the distinction of doing the same thing taking his cuttings to the banks of the Angas River after preserving his Napoleonic samples inside potatoes. Willows did well and marked the banks of many waterways until the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started killing the willows in the early 1990s by ring-barking and poisoning this invader.

It certainly would not have amused Napoleon. Also making their mark were holiday makers who had enjoyed the shade without the danger of falling branches as well as a local Councillor at the time describing the officials responsible as “fanatical”, having a screw loose and being the greatest environmental vandals in the area for a long time.



Old timer River Red Gum P.T.

Events around Adelaide

November 23-26

Festival of Motorsport

Nov 30-Dec 1

Birds of Tokyo
Festival Theatre

December 2

James Morrison and Band
Her Majesty’s

Nov 16 – Nov 25

The Marriage of Figaro
State Opera, Festival Theatre

December 3

Open day at Beaumont House

December 15

Christmas Unwrapping
Festival Theatre

Jan 12-21 Tour Down Under

SATGA AGM

December 13th at 5:00 pm

At the Regal Motor Inn North Adelaide

Please note at time of publishing this newsletter we have still to finalise a guest speaker, but welcome all to join us and share the company of past and present members.

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A Merry Christmas to you all

