

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

January may not have been the busiest month on the cruise-ship arrival calendar for Adelaide, but we still have a couple of months to focus on. Your president and some of the committee members have followed up some of the issues highlighted at the AGM with a further meeting at the Adelaide Town Hall, also attended by the Mayor and a representative of the City Traffic Division.

Difficulties with tour coach parking was highlighted and if some good results eventuate I am sure our effort will be recognised by coach companies. Further follow ups with other parties concerned with the smooth running of tours in and around the city of Adelaide are planned.

In the world of cruising we constantly welcome new names under specific banners. For the 2025/2026 season Princess Cruises are adding the Italian built ship *Discovery Princess* to the fleet with Sydney named as the home port.

Beverage and food director Raymond Grill (how fitting is his name), a man from Tamworth, has made it his target to have this ship, while cruising in Australian waters known to give a "true blue" experience of food, drinks and entertainment. What a challenge this will be. After experiencing shepherds pie, Barramundi, Vegemite and Tim Tams it is over to local beers and wines, featuring Barossa Valley and Yarra valley examples. The total choice of some 50 items of food and drink is his target.

Joining the high flyers of cruising is Qantas, perhaps adding wings to cruise-ships. They have set their sights on the boom in cruising by expanding via their travel company Trip A Deal with a \$211 million acquisition. In response Trip A Deal have increased their range of itineraries from 500 to over 30,000

Destinations such as the Galapagos Islands, Greenland, the Amazon River, Seychelles and the Kimberley's are included. No shortage of special attractions here like on board swapping out bingo (whatever that means) and all-you-can-eat buffets are features to appeal to multi generational travellers.

Elder and his camels

Most of the tours to Adelaide city take us past the old, now empty wool stores, reminding visitors of the days when wool was the material for most garments, not artificial fibre. SA was one of the major suppliers of wool to the mills of Manchester in England. Thomas Elder arrived in Adelaide in 1854. Coming from Scotland he first resided in Birksgate in the Adelaide Foothills, but soon made his mark near the northern Flinders Ranges taking up leases at a location named Beltana by the local aborigines.

His ambition was to one day control areas larger than Scotland..



Old Wool Store, Port Adelaide

In 1863 he teamed up with Robert Barr Smith and was also joined by Samuel Stuckey (the man who was to choose the right camels needed for transport). They soon made their mark in the wool trade but when Stuckey contacted Landells in Melbourne, he was given the advice to prefer Indian camels to the Arabian breeds from experience gained with the Burke and Wills expedition. With drought gripping northern SA in the years 1864/1865 delivery of stores needed at outstations by either horse or cattle was out of the question. Stuckey went to India and selected suitable camels that first arrived on board the sailing ship *Blackwell* at Port Augusta in December 1865. These camels and their "Arab drivers" were walked for about 2 weeks to Stuckey's property of Umberatana and later after acclimatisation to Beltana. Stories of cameleers and their achievements have been recorded by a number of authors.

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The Story of the stamp

Could we arrive at a future where no postage stamp is needed? Who is still in the habit of writing letters or even sending post cards.

In 1837 the English Postmaster Rowland Hill was given the task to reform postal arrangements. His major achievement was not the design of a stamp but the adoption of payment by the sender for any written message rather than the recipient which had previously given headaches if non payment resulted.

So on the 1st of May 1840 the first stamp, the One Penny Black came in to use.



My story however goes back much further

The Persian King Kyros about 550 bc and also early Egyptian rulers used a message system for military purposes to advise their troops by courier, but not until the Roman Emperor Augustus did the term "*mansio posita*" apply to their vast kingdom. Out of that word we derive Post as applied to this day.

The idea of sending messages along a given route (now known as postal-network) was further expanded under the reign of Maximilian the first about 1490. From his residence in Germany this network connected Embassies in Belgium, Italy and Spain. By the time Prussia expanded their provinces in the 18th century a fee had been added as described earlier to be paid by the recipient of a letter. The final improvement came with the gummed mini paper called a stamp.

P.T.

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Many of the cameleers would eventually integrate with local cultures and to this day have been recognised as individuals by their achievements to open up the outback but also assist in exploration.

Here are some names in SA that became the important trading hubs for the cameleers. Marree, Farina, and Oodnadatta, all of which started as major destinations for the railway. However it was not the railway that killed the trade, but the introduction of transport vehicles. From that moment cameleers and their camels became redundant. It is estimated that we have in Central Australia and northern regions approximately 1 million wild camels. A recent program on the ABC looking at what to do with introduced feral species made suggestions to process the meat and hides for food and trade. It should be recognised that some camels are rounded up and sold as a live product to Saudi Arabia.

AS a final reminder of the individual achievements of the cameleers I wish to point to the plaque along the North Terrace display walk mentioning the cameleer Bejah Dervish, who in his later years was involved in the building of Adelaide's mosque in Little Gilbert Street.



Loading camels at Marree circa 1901

For further reading:

IN THE TRACKS OF THE CAMELEERS

Author Pamela Rajkowski

Also recommended by Monika C

THE DEATH OF DORA BLACK

Author Lainie Anderson

Goodwood South-Australia

Goodwood was one of the first farms, probably the first and was originally owned by the South Australian Company.

The land joined the south parklands from where Goodwood Road commences and went east as far as Parkside with Daws Road making up the southern boundary.

It was cut up during the early 1840's and a large part was purchased but the partnership of John Mitchell Borrow and James Ransom Goodiar. Apart from farming the property, they were also prominent builders having built the Adelaide Jail. It was Goodiar who proposed the name of Goodwood for he came from Chichester in Sussex and had always been impressed with the large estate owned by the Duke of Richmond. This was also called Goodwood and had a racecourse which was to become world famous. The Goodwood Road was included in Colonel Light's original plan and early settlers were Samuel and George Mills whose land presently included our Showgrounds and their property was called Ravenswood Farm. For some time Goodwood Road was not a through road, but only a track which serviced farms on both sides as far as Springbank. A Thomas Overton ran his 514 acre Grange farm, while Captain O'Halloran, brother of the famous Major O'Halloran and a commissioner of police, farmed the property, now the site of the Repatriation Hospital. In 1873, a tramline was introduced which became the only single line from Adelaide and stopped at Goodwood Park. They ran 8 trips a day and no trips at night with exception on Sunday for the convenience of church goers. The old Goodwood Orphanage was founded in 1866 by the Sisters of Mercy but became unviable in 1975.

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Here is a late news flash:
Booking.com have just announced that the State of SA has been named the most welcoming place on Earth.

A visit to Flinders Uni City Campus

Members and friends of SATGA responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to see some of Mathew Flinders related objects and to listen to a University spokesperson describing the finds from a dig at Euston Underground Station in London. The details of Flinders re-burial and connection to Trim his cat have been included in a previous article of our newsletter. We have to thank both Monika C and president Andrea for organising this event.

For further interest in activities of exploration Joc has forwarded details of an event held by the Royal Geographical Society, on March 27 in the Hertzl Room, inside the Mortlock Library beginning at 5:15pm. The topic is *French Exploration in S.A.* speaker Danielle Code

Events around Adelaide

February 21 – March 23

Adelaide Fringe

February 28 – March 16

Adelaide Festival

February 14-16

LIV Golf tournament

March 1-6

Writers' Week

April 13

Norwood Food and Wine

Until April Chihuly Glass sculptures in the Botanic Gardens

Other topics on the Royal Geographical Society calendar include:

April 10, Graham Walker, How high am I Australian Height Datum

May 8, Sophie Thompson, Save the world with gardening

June 19, Skye Krichauff, Early encounters with Aboriginal people.

For further information please contact Joc