

# YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

## *South Australian Tourist Guide Association*

### SATGA NEWSLETTER

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#### NEWSLETTER No 96 April 2025

Greetings from your Editor,

This summer cruise season is drawing to a close and guides will have the opportunity to reflect on smooth and difficult outings with guests around the world. As in previous seasons your committee will liaise with coach companies and inbound operators to assist with planning and activities.

Leanings are ongoing and even very experienced guides can face unplanned challenges. The fact that drivers of coaches with knowledge of their destinations are retiring and new faces are not doing any research of the places we visit, but rely on bearings through devices should prompt us all to work on preparation before any tour commences.

Area maps are still the most reliable source and tour handouts can be taken at the cruise terminal.

Many of us took on the challenge of multi tours on the day the *MS Magnifica* visited Adelaide. Their plan to transfer the majority of passengers to the Chihuly display in the Botanic Gardens and condense a brief walk into an experience to remember had some hurdles to master. The early tours struck "rain" and I managed to rescue my group inside the Conservatory and once we knew the routine for the afternoon tour an extremely unprofessional organiser tried hard to stop some of us using the allocated 45 minutes for the walk to include a visit to the Palm House. I can report that she failed at least with some of us.

There has been good news as to the value to operators of the current summer season. Estimates quote an increase of nearly 50 per cent to \$8.43bn to pre-pandemic levels. But cruise companies are concerned that log-jammed Sydney Harbour remains a problem due to insufficient capacity for larger vessels. Miami based Steve Odell says Australia is falling behind with updating facilities and predicts a softening of cruise ships coming here. The Southeast Asian countries are easy to deal with and chasing us to change our plans. All cruises need to include Sydney as a visit or else they will not come. Using tenders to transfer to shore is not ideal.

P.T.

#### Guiding Adventure

Joc, Michael and Peter joined up with a group of multi language speaking guides and the team from Bob Wood to give passengers from the ship *Costa Deliziosa* a taste of Australia in their language while visiting the ports of Hobart, Sydney and Melbourne. This assignment had many challenges and required much patience, but the overall result judging from passenger feedback was appreciative and noted very highly. The team from Bob Wood tackled every new problem in a most professional way and the three of us from Adelaide had plenty to report from our point of view.

Please note:

Unfortunately Joc could not join us on the first night in Hobart due to other commitments.



Michael and Peter with Carmen and Jay



James from the Bob Wood team

### **A Man of many Talents**

He may not be the best known explorer on the list of starters from Adelaide back in the 1860's but Benjamin Herschel Babbage certainly left his mark in South-Australia. Arriving on board the ship *Hydaspes* on 27 November 1851 together with his wife Laura and their four children at the request of the SA government and the recommendation of Earl Grey in England, he immediately settled in to a mountain of work.



*Babbage*

His father, a noted Professor of mathematics and Philosopher at Cambridge was his inspiration so when the instructions about his duties kept changing he certainly had to meet many challenges. He was to report on the Adelaide water supply and in particular the artesian water near the Adelaide Goal: he was appointed one of two commissioners to issue gold licences when he visited NSW and Victoria as an observer; and in 1852 he was appointed Government assayer. He was urged to encourage the building of a sewerage system for Adelaide and participated in a survey to build the Adelaide to Port Adelaide Railway, the earliest with steam in SA, which first ran in April 1856. Babbage was an active member of the Adelaide Philosophical Society, (the fore- runner of the Royal Society of SA). He was their President and Vice President for many years and presented numerous papers on a variety of subjects ranging from meteorology to calculating machines, photography and drainage. Also in 1853, at St. Marys he planted his first vineyard, proudly reporting in 1856 that he made his first wine. On top of all that he got himself involved in exploration, what a man.

P.T.

### **Early Mining in South Australia**

When we drive up Glen Osmond Road to connect to the Adelaide Hills we see no signs of activities that became pretty important for the State of SA back in the mid 1840s. When immigrants arrived in SA with experience in mining (from Cornwall or the Harz Mountains in Germany) they could choose to find silver and lead at the Wheal Gawler or Wheal Watkins both in the Glen Osmond region, or they could try their luck to go to Montacute searching for copper and further north at the larger sites around Kapunda and Burra. Some mine owners had a greater regard for the skill of the Harz miners, but when a Mr Ey became mine captain at Burra and had Cornish miners to oversee, the differences, besides language, lead to a disappointing outcome, and eventually Ey was replaced by a Cornish Captain and the mine was run along Cornish lines. From then on many Harz miners turned to other occupations. Unfortunately as prices of ore fell and mining became more expensive as the mines went deeper, the projects around Glen Osmond ceased.

In more recent days one of SA's wine companies Woodleys Wines used the old silver mine shaft as a perfect storage for their cellaring. I have a personal recollection trying some top quality Red and even French Champagne stored in the old silver mine shafts with the managers help.

The mine captain Ey diversified into market gardening along the Torrens River at Athelston and some of the early water pumps still located around that stretch have his name embossed on it.

Early immigrants had no 'free passage' to come to South-Australia and had to promise to repay the cost of their shipping passage over time. Some of it however was advanced by mine owners, for example Dutton of Kapunda, some by the shipping agents and sometimes the ship owners.

Once more copper had been discovered at Moonta and Wallaroo, this State became financially stable and owners of the mines left their mark in buildings and donations. Some of our great buildings along North Terrace are connected to Hughes and Ayre in particular.

P.T.

### **Religious Freedom**

George Fife Angas is known for being an advocate for 'freedom of religion'

But we have had a few hick-ups along the way. There was much hostility to the militancy of the Salvation Army- a new London based denomination- who decided to make Adelaide their headquarters down under. They stationed brass bands and vocalists outside pubs disturbing citizens enjoying a quiet drink. Such tactics provoked bigotry, community unrest and larrikin behaviour. Trade Union leaders, anxious to secure remedies for their member's grievances in the here and now, were annoyed by Salvationists preaching a counter-revolutionary postponement of gratification in hints such as:

There'll be pie in the sky

In the sweet by and by

So on behalf of the North Adelaide congregation, bookseller and stationer Edgar Wigg complained that the band had played outside Tynte street Baptist Church for half an hour, while a Sunday service was held inside. This resulted in the army's leader Captain Thomas Sutherland being prosecuted for disorderly behaviour and disturbing the peace. Some of the most violent confrontations occurred where stones, eggs and tomatoes were thrown, until its members conformed to a more acceptable behaviour, but by the 1890's the Salvation Army was certainly recognised to provide the greatest measure of voluntary relief – in food, and assistance in finding jobs – for those out of work. Adherence of the free churches were encouraged to be responsible and more serious. In the latter part of the Century they had made many efforts to secure legislative support and eventually had much success, because Congregationalist and Baptists who believed in the rightness of such causes secured good representation in the province's legislation.

### **SA Curiosities**

Back in 1840 Adelaide had only one public clock. It was part of the Holy Trinity Church on North Terrace sitting precariously in the not so stable tower. It had not worked for about three years breaking down shortly after installation.

Visitors from NSW would often make comment: we have come to South Australia, where time stands still. Much later during the early days of air travel some witty flight captains had been known to announce to passengers prior to crossing the time zone at the border: we are now entering South Australia, please put your watches back 25 years. Incidentally the same Holy Trinity clock is still in situ, but now works perfectly.

### **Events around Adelaide**

April 6

SA Autumn Garden Festival  
at the Clare Showgrounds

April 23-27

Barossa Vintage Festival

May 2-11

Tasting Australia

May 7-17

Dream Big Children's Festival

All of May

History Festival(program at your local Library)

### **Australian Tourism Awards for South-Aussie**

Gold Old Coach Road Estate ( Accommodation)  
Gold Seppeltsfield ( Winery Tourism)

Silver The Big Duck Boat Tours

Silver Spirit of the Coorong

Silver Oval Hotel

Silver Bendleby Ranges ( Adventure Tourism )

Bronze Kool Tours ( Aboriginal Tourism)

Bronze Adelaide Fringe

Bronze Barossa Valley for Marketing