

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT

South Australian Tourist Guide Association

SATGA NEWSLETTER

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Greetings from your Editor,

The SA history month of May was once again full of opportunities to refresh on venues and stories of our colonial past. I attended a lecture at the Adelaide University explaining the movement of population groups from Africa to the northern part of this continent. Two points stood out for me: the results of DNA from indigenous groups up north with traces of Chinese included and the estimated movement on the continent that took about 1,000 years for 1,000 km explored.

I also enjoyed a presentation at the Burnside Library of *Wendish* costumes and the arrival of this group of emigrants in 1848 on the ship *Victoria*. They came from a region in Southern Germany but are of Slavic background settling in Hope valley and parts of the Barossa regions.

The cruise ship *Crown Princess* stopped over in Adelaide in early June after a extremely rough encounter along the south coast. It was decided to stay in Port for minor repairs and shelter for the night before continuing the next day to Fremantle. This was the last stop in Australia on a 140 day journey concluding in Devon England. We hear that a further attempt is being made to use Robe as a destination for future cruising along our coast and that Wallaroo could also return to the program subject to jetty improvements. Should this eventuate it will open the door to train persons as guides in those locations or some travel from Adelaide to attend the tours that may result. The world of cruising is never in standstill mode with constructions of more vessels in full swing.

The Carnival group have now 27 ships in service and 5 on order. The new series is titled Mega Ships with 2027 as the launch date for a monster of 230,000 gross tons vessel with space for 6,200 passengers, while MSC bring World America into action later this year at 205,000 tons catering for 5,400 passengers.

That makes Norwegian Lines latest, Norwegian Aqua almost a baby size at only 156,000tons and room for 3,570 passengers.

P.T.

Clipper Ship Story

One of the early arrivals on board the *City of Adelaide* our famous clipper ship was a William Rounsevell, a mounted policeman, landing here with his family in 1839.

After first working as a policeman he soon took the path of an entrepreneur to become the first person in South Australia in 1844 to start a coaching business on a large scale to deliver the mail. He eventually cornered the majority of the mail contracts and at the peak of his business had over 1,000 horses in harness. Advertisements for his services in the Adelaide Hills became quite common at that time. His box –like coaches painted up in pinks, yellows and reds radiated from his Adelaide headquarters to points hundreds of miles north and south. Eventually the American company Cobb&Co took over most of the runs connecting not only the gold fields in NSW and Victoria but all the way to remote Queensland country towns. Established in 1853 in Melbourne their coaches finally retired in 1924 with rail and automobiles taking over. Much art (see below) and adventure books reflect this era. Should you want to experience one of the remaining coach roads nearby head for Normanville and walk along “Old Coach Road” track heading south.
P.T.



Cobb & Co coach

Mount Lofty House

Most tours to the Adelaide Hills include a visit to the Lookout on top of Mount Lofty passing the impressive Mount Lofty House. Here is a brief history of the mansion,

The first "big house" to be built on the track then known as Ridge Road, from Crafers to the summit goes back to 1855. Arthur Hardy, the owner experimented with agriculture including grape vines, walnuts, exotic trees and shrubs growing around his substantial property. This included some now impressive surviving Sequoia trees originally grown in California. Arthurs love for foresting this region eventually became our hills Botanic Gardens. The newer Lodges added more recently all with views over the Piccadilly Valley carry the name Sequoia.



By 1865 however poor management of his finances had Arthur surrender his estate to the bank. The next owners included Alfred Watts, whose wife Jane wrote "Family Life in SA" and a Francis Stokes, but both stayed only for around 10 years.

Arthur Waterhouse, a well known businessman at that time was the next owner. He introduced electricity and a telephone before selling in 1922.

The house had three further owners up to 1979 when a Christian Community of some 20 members wanted to explore a sustainable and shared lifestyle, but it only lasted for three years. Sadly much of the house and established gardens were destroyed in the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires that ravaged the Ranges. However, local architect Ross Sands, converted the home into a "Country House" with some modern extensions for dining with a view. Mount Lofty House has become a Country House offering 5 star accommodations, top class food and a great location.

P.T.

Hazelwood Park

The property now known as Hazelwood Park was first owned by Alexander Lang Elder who came to South Australia in his father's schooner, the *Minerva*, arriving on 2 January 1840.

He was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland in 1815, and soon after his arrival set up business in Hindley Street as a commission agent, trading as A.L. Elder & Co. He was a shrewd young man and it was his business instinct that paved the fortune he was to make. Elder built a homestead on his property and became a member of the first SA parliament taking the seat of East Adelaide.

In about 1852 he returned to England where he died in his seventieth year leaving his two sons William George and Thomas to look after his business. The next owners of the Hazelwood property were a Neville Blyth, William Sanders and a Francis Clark born in Edgbaston near Birmingham in 1799. He married a sister of Sir Rowland Hill, the originator of the postage stamp also mentioned in one of our previous newsletters.

He came out to South Australia aboard the *Fatima* in 1850, and upon purchasing the property on the Greenhill Road, named it Hazelwood Park after a similar Park in Edgbaston. He built the actual "Hazelwood Cottage" the old original home, and ten years later Francis son John Howard took over the cottage, married and re-built it.

John had the writing bug and after publishing a number of verses and articles he joined the *Register* newspaper where he ultimately became editor in 1870. He also became interested in photography adding a small room to the cottage where he would develop the old fashioned glass plates in his dark room. After he died in 1878 the Clark family came to an arrangement with the Government, whereby the beautiful Hazelwood park should become a public reserve and remain in its natural state. A swimming pool was added later and it is still most popular in the district. P.T.

Here is some suggested reading during cold days.

Book Title: ***BANKS*** author ***Grantlee Kieza***

Book Title: ***FLINDERS*** author ***Bob Mundle***
-The Man Who Mapped Australia

Northern Territory

When McDougal Stewart returned to Adelaide after his third attempt to reach the Gulf of Carpentaria and praised the new territory he discovered. After that event the SA Government approached the Colonial Office with a plan to settle this part of the continent. Settlement once more started with property investments, but speculation could not persuade actual settlers to make the move north. The temptation of a gold rush and an approach to religious minority groups to take a chance still had no great impact. When a British company was given the contract to build a telegraph line connecting the continent to India and beyond, pastoralists showed more interest in trying their luck.

Ralph and John Milner had already outstations near Cooper Creek at a place called Kopperamanna (Moravian Mission) and in 1871 became the first Overlanders to move 1,500 sheep along the telegraph line under construction and supervised by Charles Todd. The Roper River became one of the more reliable supply routes to bring poles and wire and workers to the northern section which was soon recognised as the most difficult part of the project. Many well established names from previous achievements in the colony of SA added their experience to the Northern Territory settlement. They included B.T. Finnis, Francis Dutton, G.W.Goyder and Cadell. The hero of the Murray River Francis Cadell was given the responsibility of the supply ship *Gem*, but had other grand ideas. He suggested to monopolise all pearling and trepang fishing mainly carried out by Macassans from nearby islands. Undaunted he made his way to the South Celebes where he was allegedly attacked by members of his crew.

It was the last anyone ever heard from Captain Francis Cadell. Together with his schooner *Gem* he disappeared without trace in the East Indies.

Croweaters

Why are the South Australians referred to as 'croweaters' ? The main story goes back to the Victorian gold rush of the 1850s. It is said that those South Australians who travelled overland shot and killed crows to eat when their rations ran low. Somewhat naively a few of the prospectors boasted of this exotic fare when they reached Ballarat or Bendigo, only to be mocked by other diggers. From thereon in, all those coming to the diggings from SA were given that moniker, although many did not understand why.

The nickname for Western Australians, sandgroppers, also derives from the gold rush era. A sandgroper is actually a burrowing insect, and the nickname was first given to the influx of diggers from the eastern states who likewise burrowed in the sand. Since then the tables have turned, as it now applies to Western Australians, not those visiting their state. The term banana benders for our friends in Queensland needs no further explanation, but calling Queensland Banana Land as was done in the 1880, when the fruit was introduced is just part of history.

Events around Adelaide

July 2-20

Illuminate Adelaide
Various locations

July 12

British and Irish Rugby Tour
Adelaide Oval

July 25-27

Winter Reds Festival
Adelaide Hills

August 1-3

Monster Truck Show
Adelaide Entertainment Centre