

## ADELAIDE AND THE SOUTHEAST

---



IN 1836 COLONEL WILLIAM LIGHT placed South Australia's capital, **Adelaide**, 10 km inland from its port in the midst of good agricultural land. Wheat was grown up to the border of the parklands, and at Hindmarsh, within sight of the city, John Ridley first worked the stripper harvester in 1843. Within twenty years of the colony's foundation most of the good land between St Vincent Gulf and the far side of the range had been settled by wheat farmers and became the granary for the rest of the continent. South Australia owed its early pre-eminence in agriculture to the stripper harvester, the hot dry summers and the easy access of its wheatlands to the sea. Wheat was ferried from small ports along the gulf to Port Adelaide, the centre of the export trade. Inland, small farms and bullock wagon transport led to the growth of numerous small towns. They were, and often remain, more village-like than later towns created by government surveyors: they nestle into the landscape and their streets are not as wide; some are not even straight. Even more village-like were the settlements in the Adelaide Hills and among the Barossa Valley vineyards founded largely by German migrants in the 1840s and 1850s.

After 1870, the population in these areas declined as farmers and their sons left exhausted smallholdings for larger farms on virgin soil in the north and on Yorke Peninsula, which they could purchase on terms from the government. The original holdings were amalgamated and a slow transformation in landuse began. On the plains, some wheat was replaced by hay grown for the **Adelaide** market, and in the hills fruit growing, dairying, intensive grazing, market gardening and vineyards increased in importance. In some of the hills towns the high stone flour mills still survive, relics of the days when 'Adelaide' flour was known all round the continent.

In the colony's early years, the only other area of significant settlement in this region was the Southeast proper, the country around **Mount Gambier** south of **Bordertown**. In contrast to settlement in the **Adelaide** plains and hills, this was overwhelmingly pastoral country. Many of its first settlers came from western Victoria, of which geographically it is a part. They acquired large freehold estates and built mansions upon them. They used the usual means, including dummying and peacocking, to subvert the intention of the credit selection legislation of the 1870s. One of the difficulties in the way of agriculture and closer settlement was that the land was poorly drained. By taking the higher ground, the squatters gained effective control of the rest. In 1864 the government cut the first drain in the southeast and the drainage program continued sporadically until recently. In the twentieth century, some of the large estates were repurchased by the government and allocated to smaller settlers, who took up dairying or intensive grazing. The towns in the southeast, however, remain those of pastoral Australia, spaced further apart and more substantial than those in the wheat country of the hills and plains.

The early southeastern squatters sent their wool by coaster to **Melbourne**, and one of the continuing problems of the South Australian government has been to secure the trade of this area for **Adelaide**. The first railways in the southeast were built to Beachport and **Kingston South East**, closer to Adelaide than **Port Macdonnell** which had previously been the chief port. When the railway line to Melbourne reached the Victorian border in 1885 there was a rail connection to Adelaide, but only with a break of gauge, for the south-east lines were narrow gauge. In the 1950s the Playford government widened nearly all the



lines in the network to broad gauge. New industries based on the area's extensive pine plantations were developed and these confirmed the solidity of the southeastern towns.

In its course through South Australia, the Murray River passes through poorly watered country with generally inferior soil. The river was valued primarily as a waterway which allowed South Australia to trade with northern Victoria and western New South Wales. South Australia pioneered and prospered from river navigation in the 1850s, to the extent that the Victorian and New South Wales governments built railways to redirect business to ports in their territory. During this three-way battle South Australia built a railway from **Goolwa** to **Port Elliot** in the 1850s, a railway to **Morgan** in 1878 and a breakwater at **Victor Harbour** in 1882 to speed the despatch of wool cargoes to the London market. Both railways were a short-lived success, the breakwater a white elephant. By the end of the 1880s the battle had been won by the eastern colonies, but South Australia was slow to concede defeat. South Australia insisted on locking the river, belatedly achieved under the 1914 River Murray Waters Agreement, partly as an aid to navigation. In the battle with the eastern colonies one of South Australia's handicaps was that the river frequently dried up.

When wheat farming failed on the northern frontier in the 1880s, the colony slid into a recession that worsened into depression in the 1890s. It was hoped that irrigation and small farms would be the colony's salvation. With government support and supervision the Chaffey brothers began an irrigation colony on the Murray River at **Renmark** in 1887. The unemployed, with government assistance, established irrigation colonies on the upper river in the 1890s, of which only four, Lyrup, Kingston, Waikerie and Ramco, had extended if difficult lives. The first irrigation scheme wholly instituted by the government involved draining the swamps on the lower river near **Murray Bridge** and **Tailem Bend** and began in 1906. The drained land is watered from the river whose course is constricted by levee banks. The farms, which are used for dairying, run in strips from the levee banks to the edge of the old river course, the farmers living on the high ground. From 1908, govern-



Adelaide railway station. *Watercolour by Hans Heyesen, 1906.*

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ART MUSEUM



ments took over and expanded the settlements on the upper river and after both world wars the irrigated lands were further expanded for soldier settlers. Within these desolate plains there are now four large oases of fruit and vines — Waikerie, Loxton, Barmera and Renmark — and many smaller ones. The towns of the Riverland lack the charm of old colonial buildings, but they suffer less from the straggle that spoils so many Australian towns. Land serviced by irrigation channels cannot be wasted. Salinity levels, both in the river water and in the soils, have increased in recent years and now constitute the major problem facing these irrigation areas.

The land south and east of the Murray River is known as the Murray Mallee. Wheat farmers first settled in the area in the early twentieth century. The government was cautious about sanctioning farming here because most of the Mallee is beyond Goyder's Line which had proved so accurate a demarcation of reliable agricultural land in the north. The government was closely involved in the settlement process because these lands are far from the sea and wheat would pay only if railways were built. The railway to Pinnaroo was opened in 1906 and most of the Mallee network was complete by 1914. New land continued to be cleared and brought into production into the 1920s. The towns were surveyed at intervals along the railway and were laid out with the lines running through their centres. Towns in other areas fought to obtain railways which helped maintain their existence. Settlers came by rail to take up the land. These late pioneers, many of them soldier settlers, were devastated by the 1930s depression and droughts. Much of this is marginal country. The government had settled families on the land, but was later forced to relocate some of them and amalgamate holdings.

Between the Murray Mallee and the Southeast is what used to be known as the Ninety Mile Desert, now Coonalpyn Downs (see Keith). This land was cleared and sown to pasture in the 1950s after the discovery that its infertility could be overcome by the application of trace elements. With the development of the Coonalpyn Downs, settlement finally extended over the whole region.

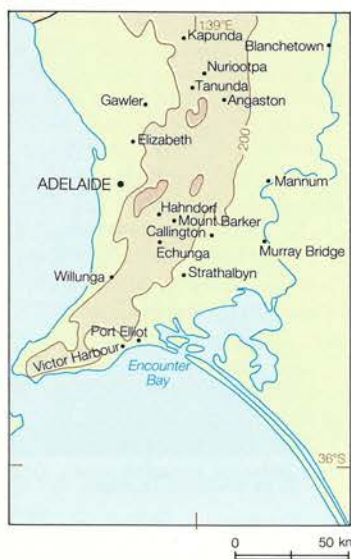
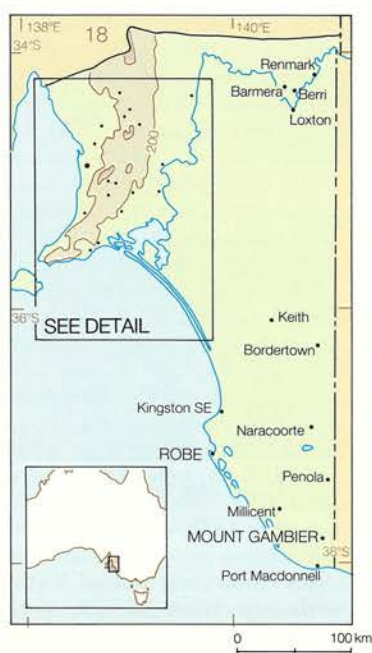
The various parts of the region were settled separately and in very different circumstances. The region has no unity in land use or self-identification. The areas that have this cohesion are smaller: the Hills, the Southeast, the Mallee, the Riverland. The only thing that unites them is their dependence on **Adelaide**.

John Hirst

#### SUGGESTED READING

- J.B. Hirst, *Adelaide and the country 1870–1917*, Melbourne 1973.  
 D. Pike, *Paradise of dissent: South Australia 1829–1857*, London 1957.  
 D. Whitelock, *Adelaide 1836–1976: a history of difference*, St Lucia 1977.  
 M. Williams, *The making of the South Australian landscape: a study in the historical geography of Australia*, London 1974.





## ADELAIDE

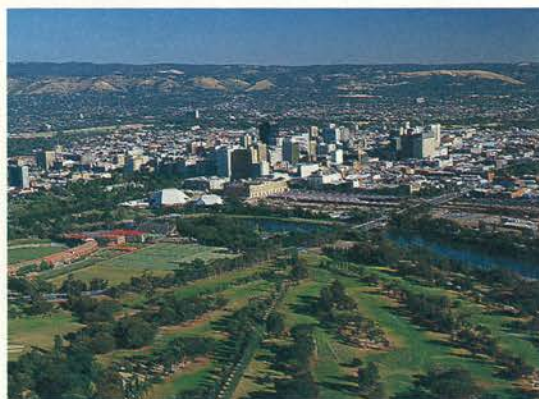
[34°55'S 138°36'E]

Popn: 6107 (1843), 18303 (1861), 175641 (1906), 312619 (1933), 587957 (1961), 882529 (1981). Named after Queen Adelaide, consort of William IV. Port Adelaide explored by Capt Collet Barker in 1831.

**Initial settlement** Site chosen and surveyed by Col William Light in 1836, central area and North Adelaide laid out by him in 1837 with large areas reserved as parkland. Settlers under Gov John Hindmarsh moved to present city centre from Holdfast Bay (Glenelg) in 1837 and first allotments granted. Holy Trinity Anglican church (RNE) was first in SA: foundation stone laid in 1838, building extended in 1844–45 and 1888. Colony's first school opened in 1838. Gov Gawler instituted policy of expansion and public works in 1838. Suburb of Hindmarsh surveyed in 1838 and became important agric centre; Kensington subdivided in same yr. Government House (RNE) begun in 1839 but enlarged many times in the 19th cent. First major road in colony from Adelaide to Port Adelaide opened in 1839, McLaren Wharf built at latter in 1840, replacing Port Misery, the earlier swampy landing place.

**Expanding city** Municipality estab in 1840, first local government authority in Aust. Development of North Adelaide began in the 1840s, with extensive building from the 1850s to the 1880s. Quakers' meeting house (RNE) built in North Adelaide in 1840. Queens Theatre (RNE) built by E. Solomon in 1840: served as supreme court 1842–46, rebuilt as Royal Victoria Theatre in 1846. Gaol (RNE) built from 1840–41 with a number of later extensions. In 1840 The Grange was built for explorer Charles Sturt who lived there until 1853. Silver-lead mine at Glen Osmond worked 1841–51 on Osmond Gilles' estate; smelting works erected in 1849 (chimney RNE); first

metal mine and first smelter in Aust. Tollhouse (RNE) built at Glen Osmond in 1841 at start of turnpike to **Mount Barker**, only one in SA. Adelaide prospered with copper discoveries at **Kapunda** (1842) and **Burra** (1845): much expansion into what are now the inner suburbs occurred. First section of Ayers House (RNE) built in 1846; formal dining room and ballroom added by Henry Ayers, secretary of SA Mining Co (see Burra) and seven times premier, in the period 1858–74. Magistrate's courthouse (RNE) built 1847–50. The *Register*, first continuing daily newspaper, estab in 1850. Botanic Gardens estab in 1854. Port Adelaide proclaimed a town in 1855, Adelaide to



*Adelaide from above North Adelaide. The parkland separating the two sections is part of the careful design of the city. It includes Adelaide Oval, Memorial Drive tennis courts and, across the Torrens, the Adelaide Festival Centre. Beyond lies the central business district. Photograph by Leo Meier, c1984.*

WELDON TRANNIES



Port Adelaide rlwy and telegraph both opened in 1856. Torrens Weir and aqueduct built in 1857 to improve Adelaide's water supply. Torrens system of land titles introduced in 1858. Adelaide has a number of notable churches including Christ Church, North Adelaide 1848–49, St Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic cathedral, begun in 1856 and St Peter's Anglican cathedral (RNE) from 1869 to 1904. Town hall (RNE) opened in 1866. Supreme court (RNE) built in 1867–68; general post office (RNE) 1867–72; SA Gas Co set up works at Thebarton in 1871. Adelaide Oval estab in 1872. Hope Valley Reservoir built in 1872 to increase water supply. Suburban rlwy to Glenelg opened in 1873. First horse tramway opened in 1878. Albert Bridge (RNE) built over Torrens R in 1878–79. Suburbs of Henley Beach, Grange and Semaphore settled in the 1870s–80s. Fort Glanville built at Semaphore in 1880 after Russian invasion scare, first fortification in SA.

**Depression, then consolidation** Depression hit the city in 1883 with the 1881–84 drought in agric areas of SA and falling prices for wool, grain and copper. Fort Largs coastal defences built in 1882. University of Adelaide opened in 1882, admitting women as well as men from its inception. First section of Parliament House built 1883–89, although earlier legislative council chambers (c1854) remain and are now the Constitutional Museum. First city arcade built in 1886. Jubilee Exhibition held in 1887. Sewerage farm estab at Islington 1879–81. Mosque (RNE) completed in 1890, financed by Afghans who had operated camel trains in the inland, especially during building of **Overland Telegraph** to Darwin. Maritime strike in 1890. Belair Recreation Park set aside in 1891. Women's Suffrage League agitation from 1886 led to women gaining equal franchise for lower house of parliament in 1894, second in world after NZ. Main building of Art Gallery of SA (RNE) completed in 1900. Electric lighting introduced in 1900.

**Twentieth century** City of Port Adelaide proclaimed in 1901. East End fruit and produce markets (RNE) completed in 1904. Municipal Tramways Trust estab in 1906: extensive network of lines by

1908, first electric trams in 1909. Outer Harbour developed for shipping at Port Adelaide in 1908. Housing booms and suburban expansion 1910–14 and 1921–29. Suburb of Colonel Light Gardens set out in 1924. First radio stations in SA estab here in 1924. The unemployed who lived in humpies along Torrens R during the depression of the early 1930s, staged large protest march in 1931. Saltfields constructed at Dry Creek on northern outskirts in 1935; became Aust's largest salt producer by solar evaporation; ammonia-soda works completed in 1940. Greater Port Adelaide Plan released in 1949. Rapid suburban expansion from the 1950s. Water pipeline from Murray River at **Mannum** opened in 1954. Present Adelaide airport opened at West Beach in 1955. First Adelaide Festival held in 1960. Refinery and petroleum wharf opened at Port Stanvac on southern edge of metropolitan area in 1963. Roll-on, roll-off terminal opened at Port Adelaide in 1971, container berth in 1977. Festival Theatre opened in 1972, drama complex in 1974. Rundle St transformed into pedestrian mall in 1976. Heritage conservation areas around Victoria Sq and in North Adelaide and Port Adelaide. (See also Glenelg).

## ANGASTON

[34°30'S 139°03'E]

Popn: 628 (1881), 1265 (1911), 1103 (1933), 1913 (1961), 1753 (1981). Named after George Fife Angas, one of founders of SA. Early name was German Pass. Barossa Valley chosen by Angas's agent in 1841, town built on Angas's land. Copper found in 1846 and mined on small scale until the late 1860s. Lindsay Park built by Angas in 1847. Winery estab at Keyneton to southwest by Johann Henschke in 1847; Yalumba winery to southeast by Samuel Smith in 1849. Wesleyan Methodist church built in 1854. Collingrove (Nat T, RNE) built in 1856 for Angas's son John, pastoralist and parliamentarian. Saltram vineyard estab in 1859 by William Salter; successfully exporting wine by 1882. Rlwy opened in 1911.

## BARMERA

[34°12'S 140°22'E]

Popn: 556 (1933), 1179 (1961), 2014 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'water place' or 'lake-dwellers'; or corruption of Barmeedjie, name of group in area. Lake Bonney discov by pioneer overlanders Charles Bonney and Joseph Hawdon in 1838 while droving first cattle along the Murray River and then to Adelaide. Nappers Old Accommodation House (ruins Nat T, RNE) built in 1850 on stock route; Overland Corner Hotel (Nat T, RNE) in district built in 1858–59. By the 1870s drovers camped in area with large numbers of sheep and cattle. Several cattle runs in district by 1846, consolidated into large Cobdogla run in 1867. First govt survey for irrigation area from Cobdogla to **Berri** in 1911. Soldier settlement followed channel construction after World War I: first blocks allotted and village founded in 1922. Rlwy opened in 1928. Proclaimed a town in 1929. Donald Campbell attempted world water speed record on Lake Bonney in 1964.

## BERRI

[34°16'S 140°38'E]

Popn: 217 (1911), 2037 (1933), 1470 (1954), 3419 (1981). Name: Aborig *berri-berri* = 'wide bend in river' or



*Government House, begun in 1839 and progressively extended. King William Street runs from the foreground to cross North Terrace. Hand-coloured steel engraving by J.J. Crew, 1840s.*

NATIONAL LIBRARY





*Angaston, first settled in 1841 by George Fife Angas. Watercolour by W.A. Cawthorne.*

NATIONAL LIBRARY

name for species of bush. Charles Sturt explored district on expedition down Murray River in 1830. Berri Irrigation Area proclaimed in 1910 and town founded in 1911. Distillery estab in 1918 to make spirits from waste dried fruit, became co-operative winery and distillery in 1922. Rlwy opened in 1928. Co-operative cannery opened in the 1950s to handle increased fruit production.

#### **BORDERTOWN** [36°18'S 140°48'E]

Popn: 199 (1881), 742 (1911), 1315 (1954), 2138 (1981). Named from position near (but not on) colonial border on route from Adelaide to Vic goldfields. Township proclaimed in 1845. Grew after halfway depot set up in 1851 for Vic to Adelaide gold escort. Growth stimulated further after 1852 when became important supply centre for western Vic goldfields. Woolshed Inn opened in 1859. Rlwy from Adelaide opened in 1886 as part of line to Melbourne. Prime minister Robert Hawke born here in 1929. Town has expanded since World War II as agric activity in district increased.

#### **CRAFERS-BRIDGEWATER**

[35°00'S 138°43'E]

Popn: 194 (1881), 345 (1891), 229 (1901), 1331 (1947), 5308 (1971), 9764 (1981). Crafers named after David Crafers who opened inn there in 1839; Bridgewater named after Bridgewater Hotel opened near bridge on new road from Adelaide to Mount Barker in 1855, formerly Cox's Creek. Village grew around Crafers' inn. Town of Bridgewater laid out around hotel in 1859; watermill (RNE, Nat T) built in 1860; former school (RNE) in 1858-59. One of chief wheat-growing areas of SA c1850. Position on Southeastern Freeway has led to growth as commuter centre for Adelaide in the 1970s-80s.

#### **ECHUNGA**

[35°06'S 138°48'E]

Popn: 144 (1881), 445 (1911), 474 (1947), 242 (1971), 293 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'close by'. District settled

by Europeans in 1839. Town estab in 1848. Gold found in 1851 on SA's first major field leading to rush of approx 4000 diggers, but alluvial gold soon ran out. Semiprivate township of Macclesfield to southeast laid out in 1840-41 on land taken up in 1838.

#### **ELIZABETH**

[34°43'S 138°42'E]

Popn: 23 326 (1961), later included in metropolitan Adelaide. Named after Elizabeth II. Estab in 1954, proclaimed in 1955, became a city in 1964. Planned residential and industrial development. SA premier Thomas Playford persuaded General Motors-Holden to establish major motor vehicle plant here in the 1950s. Other industry followed.

#### **GAWLER**

[34°35'S 138°46'E]

Popn: 1202 (1861), 2122 (1891), 1996 (1901), 4037 (1911), 1676 (1933), 4436 (1947), 9433 (1981). Named after SA resident commissioner George Gawler. Formerly known as Gawler Town. Site chosen by Col William Light in 1837, town laid out in 1839. King family were early settlers in 1840, building first mill in 1846 and establishing Kingsford property. Union Mill (RNE) built in 1855, now restaurant: was one of several to prosper in the 1860s-1870s. Incorporated as municipality in 1857. First rlwy station built in 1857 when line from Adelaide opened; extended to Kapunda in 1860. Globe (Kingsford) Hotel (RNE) built c1858, former Wheatsheaf Hotel opened in 1859. Former telegraph station (Nat T, RNE) built in 1859-60. Post office (RNE) built in 1866, town hall (RNE) in 1878. Large engineering works estab by John Martin in 1882 to build harvesters: first rlwy locomotive built in SA made there in 1890, but no more govt orders received after 1892 and company closed in 1914. Central conservation area is listed on RNE. Agric college formally estab at Roseworthy to northwest in 1883, though important experiments with use of superphosphate took place there in 1881. Became an oenological college also from 1936.



**GOOLWA** [35°29'S 138°49'E]

Popn: 624 (1876), 688 (1881), 586 (1901), 648 (1911), 526 (1954), 1624 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'elbow' or 'yesterday'. Surveyed c1840. Former Superintendent's Cottage (RNE) built in 1852, used by SA gov as summer residence in the 1850s. Wharf built in 1852, post office in 1853. Aust's first public rlwy, horse drawn, opened in 1854 to connect river traffic at Goolwa with the ocean port at **Port Elliot**. Goolwa, Corio and Australasian hotels all opened in the 1850s. Declared a port in 1857. Murray River steamer traffic important from 1853 when Francis Cadell in *Lady Augusta* and William Randell in *Mary Anne* raced from Goolwa to Darling River junction with Murray. Police station (RNE) built in 1859; courthouse (RNE) and Holy Evangelist Anglican church in 1867. Important river port in the 1850s–70s, but role lessened after opening of rlwy from Morgan to **Adelaide** in 1878. Had also been major building and repair centre for river craft: ironworks opened in 1846 for those purposes. Goolwa Barrage completed in 1940 at cost of £700 000.

**HAHNDORF** [35°02'S 138°50'E]

Popn: 461 (1881), 685 (1911), 504 (1933), 808 (1947), 638 (1954), 1274 (1981). Named after captain of vessel which brought original 52 German settler families in 1839; means 'Hahn's village'. Name changed to Ambleside during World War I, changed back in 1936. Area explored in 1838, settled in 1839. Original German Arms Hotel opened in 1839. Nixon's

windmill (RNE) built in 1842. Former Australian Arms Inn (RNE) first licensed in 1854. Hahndorf Academy (RNE) estab in 1857 to provide children with education in English and German; moved into new building in 1871 which remained a school until 1916; now a German folk museum and a gallery for paintings by Hans Heysen, who lived in Hahndorf from 1908 to his death in 1968. St Michael's Lutheran church begun in 1859. Wittwer's Mill (RNE) built in 1864, closed in 1923. The *Schuetzenfest* (shooting festival) held annually since 1864.

**KAPUNDA** [34°19'S 138°57'E]

Popn: 1898 (1861), 2540 (1866), 1805 (1901), 2167 (1911), 1119 (1966), 1340 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'rocky waterhole'. First copper discovery in Aust here in 1842; Great Kapunda mine opened in 1844, brick air shaft (RNE) built in 1848 still stands. Town laid out in 1845. About 70 000 tonnes of very pure ore produced over 40 yrs. Miner's mud and stone cottage (RNE) of 1845 remains. Christ Church built in 1856, Uniting church in 1858 (both RNE). Clare Castle Hotel built in 1859. Rlwy opened in 1860. Old courthouse (RNE) built 1866–68. Prosperity peaked in the 1860s and early 1870s when popn approx 10 000, 22 hotels, second largest town in SA. Baptist church (RNE) built in 1866–67, now museum. Aust's first croquet played here in 1868. First bowling green in SA estab here in 1876. Mines closed in 1888 after flooding. More than 50 buildings listed by Nat T and conservation area listed on RNE.

**KEITH** [36°05'S 140°22'E]

Popn: 292 (1911), 1212 (1971), 1147 (1981). Named in 1889 after eldest son of Lancelot Stirling, pastoralist. Tintinara woolshed and outbuildings (RNE) to north built c1840, district settled in the late 1840s and 1850s. Rlwy siding and township known as Mount Monster from opening of rlwy in 1886 to 1889. Transformation of Ninety Mile Desert to the northwest to Coonalpyn Downs began in 1949 when AMP Society developed land after CSIRO discovered ways of correcting soil deficiencies by addition of trace elements. By the end of the 1960s, more than 2800 sq km had been turned into farms with rich pastures. Water pipeline from Tailem Bend opened in 1969.

**KINGSTON SOUTH EAST**

[36°49'S 139°53'E]  
Popn: 450 (1881), 345 (1891), 546 (1911), 1325 (1981). Named by Gov MacDonnell after surveyor George Strickland Kingston who arrived in SA in 1836, then built residence on town site in 1840. Formerly named Maria Creek, then Port Caroline. Lacepede Bay discov by Nicholas Baudin in 1802. In 1840, 26 pioneers survived wreck of the *Maria* and were later massacred by Aborigs. Private town founded by Kingston and govt survey in 1858. Port proclaimed in 1866. Swampy country in district drained from the 1860s to c1910. Former police station (RNE) built in 1866, as was post office (RNE). Cape Jaffa lighthouse (Nat T, RNE) built in 1870–71 on a reef 8 km offshore, now re-erected in town. Rlwy opened in 1876. First selec-



Cape Jaffa lighthouse, built in 1870–71 to mark an offshore reef and since re-erected in Kingston South East. Photograph by Reg Morrison, 1981.

WELDON TRANNIES



tions in district in 1878. Agitation in 1900 to revitalise port as main one for southeastern SA and western Vic, but idea dismissed in 1906 and **Portland** (Vic) filled role from 1912.

#### LOXTON [34°26'S 140°35'E]

Popn: 776(1911), 2321(1954), 2057(1961), 3100(1981). First named Loxton Hut after primitive dwelling built by boundary rider W.C. Loxton of Bookpurnong station. Pastoral leases in district taken up in the 1850s. Settled as farming area in the 1890s: many German settlers. Village surveyed and proclaimed in 1907. Rlwy opened in 1914. In 1948, 2428 ha of irrigated land allocated for largest soldier settlement scheme in SA. Loxton Co-operative Winery and Distillery estab 1949–53. Historical village recreates an early 1900s farming town. Pyap to west estab in 1894 as a communal village settlement: pumping station (remains RNE) built in 1894.

#### MANNUM [34°53'S 139°20'E]

Popn: 192(1881), 1317(1911), 1147(1933), 2137(1976), 1984(1981). Aborig name for area was Manyum or Manumph. Capt Charles Sturt passed town site on 1830 voyage down Murray River. First paddle steamer, the *Mary Ann* under Capt William Randell, left here in 1853. Randell estab dry dock (RNE). Port Mannum estab in 1864 at end of road from **Adelaide**, became important river port. Wheat from eastern Mt Lofty Ranges transported upstream to NSW and Vic. David Shearer set up farm machinery works in the 1880s, designed and built Aust's first steam car in 1898. Pipeline to send water to Adelaide together with intake pumping station on Murray River completed in 1954.

#### MILLICENT [37°35'S 140°23'E]

Popn: 689(1881), 582(1891), 1226(1911), 3401(1961), 5471(1976), 5255(1981). Named after wife of George Glen, manager of station on which township built. Glen took up land in 1846, as one of first European settlers. Drainage scheme for district begun in 1863, transforming swamps into wheat and barley fields, when govt blasted outlet from swamp into Lake Frome. Further important drainage work in 1867. Total of approx 1450 km of drains and 500 bridges built in schemes continuing into the 20th cent. Town is on reclaimed land; surveyed and named in 1870. Rlwy opened in 1879, converted from narrow to broad gauge in 1955. Reticulated water supply scheme completed in 1963.

#### MOUNT BARKER [35°02'S 138°54'E]

Popn: 752(1881), 1446(1911), 1706(1933), 1609(1947), 2475(1971), 4190(1981). Named by Charles Sturt after explorer Capt Collet Barker who was killed by Aborigs at the Murray River mouth in 1831. Barker was first European to climb mountain named after him. First special survey in SA carried out here in 1839. Nixon's windmill (RNE) built in 1842, operated until 1864. District council estab in 1856. Former post office (RNE) built in 1860, police station and stables (RNE) in 1878. Rlwy from **Adelaide** opened in 1883.

In 1889 local nurseryman A.W. Howard discov value of subterranean clover and publicised it as pasture crop 1906–12, but largely ignored until 25 yrs later. St James' Anglican church at Blakiston, built in 1846–47, is oldest in SA. Copper mined at Kanmantoo to the east 1842–52.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER [37°49'S 140°48'E]

Popn: 2403(1881), 5542(1933), 10331(1954), 19880(1981). Extinct volcano sighted and named after Admiral Gambier, commander of fleet at battle of Copenhagen, by Lieut James Grant in 1800. Town formerly known as Gambier Town. Volcano last active approx 5000 yrs ago; first climbed by Europeans in 1839. First dwelling in district built by Stephen Henty in 1841. First inn opened by American negro John Byng in 1847. Weekly postal service to **Adelaide** by 1850. Poet Adam Lindsay Gordon served with mounted police here 1853–55: 'The feud' first published here in 1864. Town started as private venture in 1854 by Hastings Cunningham. Original convent built in 1857. Govt township surveyed in 1861 and grafted on to private one. Giffords (Mt Gambier) Hotel (RNE) opened in 1862. Gaol (RNE) erected 1862–66. Old courthouse (Nat T, RNE) built in 1864–65. Christ Church (RNE) built in 1865, later enlarged. Became a municipality in 1876. Rlwy from **Adelaide** opened in 1879. Native forests of area largely cut out in the 1870s: govt's Woods & Forests Dept began policy of planting softwoods to replace them. Town hall built c1882. Blue Lake pumping station (RNE) built in 1884 for town water supply. Bowling club estab in 1904, first in SA outside Adelaide. Ballet dancer, choreographer and actor Robert Helpmann born here in 1909. Rlwy to Heywood (Vic) opened in 1918. State sawmill opened in 1958. Regional cultural centre estab in 1976–77.

#### MURRAY BRIDGE [35°06'S 139°18'E]

Popn: 502(1901), 1255(1911), 3690(1947), 8740(1976), 8664(1981). Known as Edward's Crossing after first European settler, 1850, later known as Mobilong. Village founded in 1866. Road bridge over Murray River opened in 1879. Mobilong township laid out in 1883, district council declared in 1884 with town ward of Murray Bridge. Town grew from date bridge completed: although popularly known as Murray Bridge, still officially Mobilong until municipality proclaimed in 1924. Rlwy from **Adelaide** to **Melbourne** built through town in 1886. New rlwy bridge built in 1925. Cheese factory built in 1970. Monarto, to northwest chosen in 1973 as site for major new city; 190 000 ha acquired for planned popn of 250 000, but never eventuated as political and economic climates changed and scheme effectively abandoned by 1976. Preaminna copper mine (ruins RNE) estab there in 1854.

#### NARACOORTE [36°57'S 140°45'E]

Popn: 899(1881), 264(1911), 2202(1947), 4758(1981). Name: Aborig *narra-coorta* = 'wide pool'. Area once known as Mosquito Plains. Struan station estab in 1842 by Robertson brothers, homestead (RNE) built



in 1875; Naracoorte run estab by George Ormerod in 1842. Estab as private town in 1847, known as Kincaig. Govt town of Naracoorte laid out to north in 1849. Special govt survey in 1859: police station, post office and courthouse built c1865 in midst of vacant allotments and despite protests of Kincaig residents. Oldest section of Commercial Hotel dates from 1861. St Andrew's Presbyterian church (RNE) begun in 1874. Rlwy opened in 1876. Became a municipality in 1924. Agric prosperity led to town growth in the 1930s. First regional art gallery in SA opened here in 1968. Naracoorte Caves have yielded important fossils of extinct species from up to 170 000 yrs ago.

#### **NURIOOTPA** [34°27'S 139°02'E]

Popn: 377 (1881), 249 (1891), 581 (1911), 2851 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'meeting place' or 'rock of the giant'. Formerly called Greenock Creek. William Coulthard opened red gum slab hotel in 1843 to serve bullockies and travellers on route from **Adelaide** to **Kapunda** and **Burra**. Town grew around hotel, though not surveyed until 1854. Coulthard House (RNE, now Nat T museum) built in 1855 on land settled by Coulthard in 1841. Seppeltsfield winery estab by Joseph Seppelt in 1852, originally intending to cultivate tobacco: main building begun in 1866, completed and enlarged in 1878. Rlwy opened in 1911. Taroc Industries estab in 1930 to use wastes from wine industry, making grapeseed oil and alcohol spirit. Kaiser Stuhl opened as only co-operative winery in Barossa Valley in 1931. Viticultural research station estab in 1938.

#### **PENOLA** [37°21'S 140°51'E]

Popn: 763 (1881), 568 (1891), 1383 (1966), 1205 (1981). Name: Aborig *penaoorla* = 'big swamp'. Village founded in 1840 by Alex Cameron as stopover for travellers. McAdam slab hut (Nat T) built in the 1840s is one of oldest houses in SA. Royal Oak (now Penola) Hotel built in 1848. Former post office (Nat T, RNE), built in 1865, now museum. Cobb & Co office estab in 1857 was terminus for line from **Melbourne**. Town proclaimed in 1902. Yallum Park to southwest taken up by Austin brothers in the 1840s, bought in 1861 and expanded by John Riddoch: main homestead (RNE) built in 1878–79, but original cottage of c1845 remains. Much of property subdivided by govt for closer settlement in 1905. First vines in Coonawarra district planted in 1891 on Penola Fruit Colony subdivided from property by Riddoch: major success came in the 1950s when wine generally became more popular.

#### **PORT ELLIOT** [35°27'S 138°22'E]

Popn: 258 (1881), 548 (1911), 442 (1933), 664 (1961), 565 (1966), 773 (1981). Named after Charles Elliot, gov of Bermuda who was friend of Gov Henry Young who tried to develop port. Town named in 1850, surveyed in 1852, declared a township in 1854. Port proclaimed in 1851. Port Elliot Hotel and jetty completed in 1852. Police station (RNE) built in 1853. St Jude's Church of England (RNE) built in 1854. Horse-drawn tramway built from **Goolwa** in 1854 as

first public rlwy in Aust. Four ships foundered in 1856, putting an end to town's hopes of becoming the 'New Orleans of the Australian Mississippi' as port then considered unsafe. Rlwy to **Victor Harbor** opened in 1864. Former courthouse (RNE) built in 1866.

#### **PORT MACDONNELL** [38°02'S 140°44'E]

Popn: 440 (1881), 278 (1901), 712 (1976), 682 (1981). Named after Gov Richard MacDonnell. Proclaimed a port in 1860 and became SA's second busiest in the 1860s–80s, handling wool and grain. Large police station, telegraph station, customs house and courthouse complex (RNE) built 1862–74.

#### **RENMARK** [34°09'S 140°46'E]

Popn: 368 (1891), 1933 (1911), 2176 (1933), 1914 (1947), 3475 (1981). Named by George Chaffey in 1887, probably from Aborig word for 'red mud'. Aust's oldest irrigation settlement, begun by Chaffey brothers in 1887 after they were granted 101 100 ha on which to test their scheme. Village founded in 1887. Olivewood (Nat T, RNE) built of logs for Charles Chaffey in 1887. Renmark Irrigation Trust Office (RNE) built 1888–93, originally as Chaffey brothers' office. Chaffey went bankrupt in 1892–93 and local govt trust set up to administer scheme. First community hotel in British Empire set up here in 1897. Town proclaimed in 1904, became a municipality in 1935. Angove's distillery estab in 1910. Renmark Growers' Distillery Ltd estab first co-operative winery in Aust here in 1916. Rlwy opened in 1927.

#### **REYNELLA** [35°05'S 138°31'E]

Popn: 113 (1881), 241 (1947), 11 818 (1966, inc Port Noarlunga), now included in **Adelaide** for census purposes. Named after John Reynell who planted vines here in 1838, having received cuttings from William Macarthur of NSW. Reynella House complex RNE; first stage of underground cellars built in 1845. Chateau Reynella vineyard, oldest in SA, planted in 1842; St Francis winery estab in 1852, had first state distillery licence in SA. Village founded in 1854–55. Rlwy opened in 1916. Has developed rapidly as outer residential suburb of Adelaide since the 1950s. Refinery and petroleum wharf estab in 1963 at Port Stanvac in Port Noarlunga area.

#### **ROBE** [37°09'S 139°47'E]

Popn: 440 (1911), 308 (1933), 554 (1954), 424 (1961), 590 (1981). Named after Gov Frederick Robe who sailed along coast in 1846 to choose port for southeast of SA and chose this site on Guichen Bay, named by Nicholas Baudin in 1802. Charles Bonney settled in district after overlanding 300 cattle from NSW. Town surveyed in 1846, port declared in 1847. Bonnie Owl (now Robe) Hotel first licensed in 1847; police station and courthouse (RNE) built in 1848. Robe House begun in the 1840s as govt residency. In the 1850s an estimated 20 000 Chinese landed here to trek overland to Vic goldfields, thus avoiding the £10 Vic poll tax. Merchant George Ormerod important in town's expansion, building woolstores (one RNE, 1853), jetty (1853), workers' cottages (RNE, c1863),





*Chateau Tanunda, one of the well-known wineries of the Barossa Valley. Large areas of vines were planted in the 1840s and 1850s, chiefly by German settlers.*

*Photograph, c1910.*

NATIONAL LIBRARY

Moorakynne (RNE, c1856): his company handled nearly £3.5m worth of exports 1855–66. Telegraph station (RNE) built in 1858. Caledonian Inn and Star of the Sea Roman Catholic church built in 1859. Town also became fashionable summer resort in the 1850s. Former gaol (RNE) built in 1861. Customs house (Nat T, RNE, now museum) built in 1863. Gov Fergusson used Karatta House (built in 1857) as his summer residence in the early 1870s. Fortunes of port declined once bypassed by rlwy, especially as it was not a very safe anchorage.

#### STRATHALBYN [35°15'S 138°55'E]

Popn: 886 (1871), 761 (1876), 1756 (1981). Name from Gaelic *strath* = 'wide valley' and derivation from 'Albion'. Scottish settlers led by John Rankine settled in district in 1839. Glenbarr homestead (RNE) built for Rankine in 1842. St Andrew's Church (RNE) begun in 1844. Hotel on site of later Terminus Hotel opened c1847. Copper mined and smelted from c1848 until 1914. Angus flour mill built in 1849. Robin Hood Hotel opened in 1855. Police station, built in 1858, and courthouse, built in 1865, now Nat T museum (both RNE). London House (RNE) built as store in 1867, coaching service to Adelaide run from stables behind. Argus House (RNE) built in 1867–68 as offices for *Southern Argus*, first country newspaper in SA. Municipality proclaimed in 1868. Provincial Gas Co estab in 1868, operated until 1917. Tramway to Goolwa and Victor Harbor opened in 1869, rlwy from Adelaide in 1884. Cheese factory opened in 1889, also made butter from 1903. Town centre is conservation area listed on RNE.

#### TANUNDA [34°30'S 139°00'E]

Popn: 495 (1881), 1104 (1911), 2621 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'many birds on a creek'. Once known as Langmeil. First vines in area planted in 1847. Tabor Lutheran church built in 1849. Auricht's printing office (RNE) built in 1855. Pastor Auricht estab

town's first German newspaper. Brass band estab in 1860, *Liedertafel* (singing society) in 1861. Bowling alley for German nine-pin game of *kegel* built c1860, moved and repaired c1920. Post office, now museum, built in 1866, as was courthouse. St John's Lutheran church (RNE) built in 1868. Chateau Tanunda winery founded as company in 1889. First German settlers in Barossa Valley settled at Langmeil and Bethany to southeast in 1842: district first named New Silesia.

#### VICTOR HARBOR [35°32'S 138°39'E]

Popn: 533 (1881), 465 (1891), 937 (1911), 2036 (1961), 4522 (1981). Named after HMS *Victor* by Capt Crozier who anchored off Granite Island in 1837. Whaling and sealing depot in the 1830s, whaling station estab on Granite Island in 1837. Proclaimed a port in 1838. First party of European settlers in 1839. Fountain Inn estab in 1847. Windmill (ruins RNE) built in 1851 but closed after storm damage in 1853. Decision to estab port made in 1861. Rlwy from Adelaide opened in 1864. Causeway begun in 1864, extended to Granite Island in 1875. St Augustine's Church of England built in 1869. Breakwater and jetty built 1878–82. Ceased to be important port c1912, but resort and retirement function has increased since then.

#### WILLUNGA [35°15'S 138°35'E]

Popn: 351 (1881), 532 (1891), 422 (1901), 537 (1911), 623 (1954), 475 (1971), 667 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'place of gum trees'. Estab as govt supply depot in 1837. Area surveyed in 1839, police station and other buildings followed. Bush Inn estab in 1840. Wesleyan chapel and Roman Catholic church built in 1844. School (now museum, RNE) built in 1854. Wheat industry important in district by the 1850s and remained so until crop failures of the 1870s. Court-house and police station (both RNE) built 1855–64, now Nat T museum. Rlwy opened in 1915, closed in 1957. Delabole village (RNE) on edge of town estab in 1840 for slate quarrymen, abandoned in 1903 after demand had declined in the 1890s.