



University of Adelaide campus, North Terrace, Adelaide SA

ADELAIDE, South Australia

Cafes, Learning and Culture

by

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Members - ADFAS Pokolbin

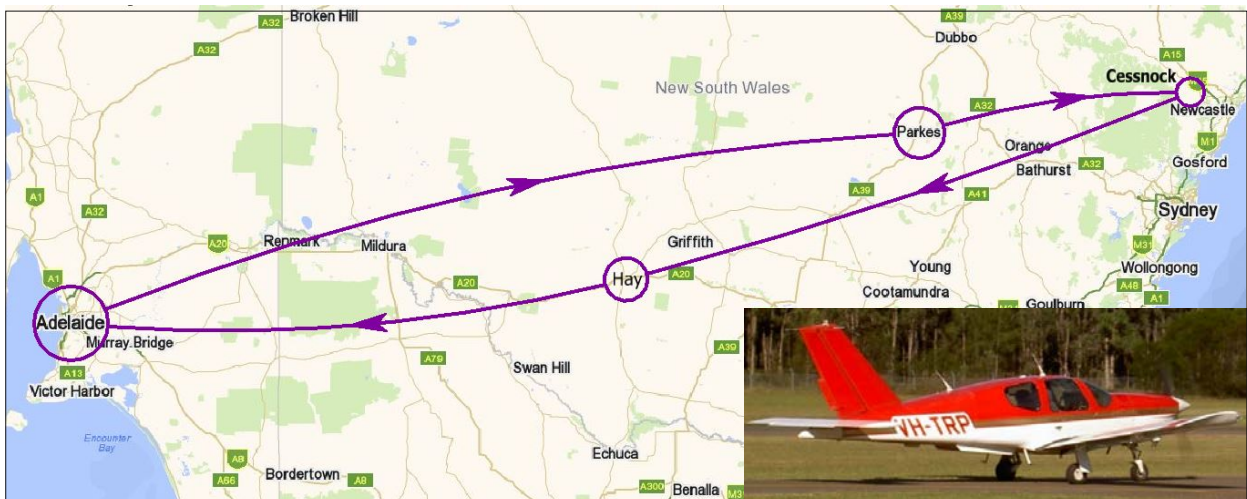
November, 2017



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In early November, 2017, we decided to spend a few days in Adelaide, SA. We have explored the surrounds on many occasions, especially the Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale, Clare Valley and Coonawarra wine districts, and taken 4WD treks to the riverland, northern deserts, Ceduna district and the Flinders Ranges, but apart from attending a conference in the Hilton many years ago and a few stopovers at a cousin's house in the suburbs, we had never properly explored the city of Adelaide itself.

We flew ourselves in our plane to Adelaide via a fuel stop in Hay and landed at Adelaide International Airport – total journey time including the fuel stop – 5 hours. We arrived early afternoon and caught the airport bus to the city and walked to our nearby hotel.



Our route to and from Adelaide with plane (inset)

Adelaide CBD is set out as a grid of streets with a central north-south grand avenue named King William Street. The street grid is enclosed by perimeter avenues known as the North Terrace, South Terrace, East Terrace and West Terrace. East-west streets within the city that cross King William Street change name at King William Street. Our hotel was in Hindley Street on the western side of King William Street and this street becomes Rundle Street after it crosses King William Street. When 'Streets' cross the outer terraces, they become 'Roads'. For example, Rundle Street becomes Rundle Road to the east of East Terrace and King William Street becomes King William Road to the north of North Terrace.



ADELAIDE CBD Map showing 'Green Belt' and Rundle Mall
 expensive real estate in South Australia.

The city has a green belt just outside the perimeter terraces containing parklands and sporting amenities, plus the Botanic Gardens, the Zoo, the River Torrens, a cemetery and certain public and cultural buildings.

Adelaide has a pedestrian street mall located in part of Rundle Street, known as Rundle Mall. It was formed in 1976 and has become the centrepiece of Adelaide's city centre with some of the most

The mall is home to many of Australia's largest retailers including Myer and David Jones, and also has the state's only Apple Retail Store, as in iPhones, etc. The mall appears to be very successful with crowds of shoppers at most times of day, especially during Friday evening late night shopping.



Rundle Mall - a successful pedestrian street mall.



Gourmet Foods at Adelaide Central Markets

adjacent to Adelaide's Chinatown.

The Adelaide Central Market is also well worth a visit with quality market stalls selling a wide variety of fresh gourmet foods. The market is one of Australia's largest fresh produce markets and a popular tourist attraction. It is also believed to be the most visited place in South Australia. The market was erected in 1869 and is

Adelaide's café culture is also a drawcard to the city. Our hotel in Hindley Street was close to Rundle Mall and Rundle Street, and was in the heart of the café scene. Just around the corner from the hotel was Leigh Street, a laneway closed to traffic with wall-to-wall indoor/outdoor cafes. The liquor laws allow cafes to sell alcohol so a glass of wine at one café and a light meal at another was always possible and that is how we spent most evenings.



Adelaide's cafe scene was highly popular

The Botanic Gardens were also very special with lush growth and huge trees combined with cafes, restaurants, shaded paths, lakes and water features. They have special exhibits such as the Amazon Waterlily Pavilion and the Palm house. We had a café lunch there overlooking the lake and explored the beautiful pathways through the lush exhibits. Very special gardens and one of the best we have experienced in Australia.



Botanical Gardens Amazon Waterlilies



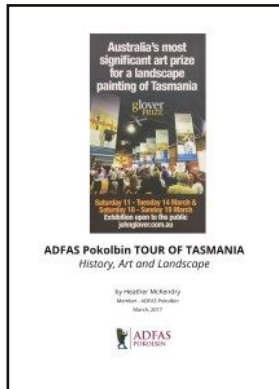
Botanical Gardens arched walkway

The cultural buildings were also very special and grand, and were located along the North Terrace. Apart from Parliament House and Government House, there was the State Museum, State Library and the Art Gallery of SA. Adjacent was the University of Adelaide with a wonderful campus in amongst the parkland and cultural buildings.

We allocated the Sunday to the cultural buildings and were not disappointed. On this day there were a series of pop-up classical musical recitals in amongst the exhibits in the museum, library and art gallery which made the occasion very special. All buildings had exhibits to examine and wonderful interior and exterior architecture to inspect and all were free to enter and enjoy.



Interior of the Art Gallery of SA



In the art gallery, a number of paintings caught our eye. One was 'A view of the artist's house and garden, in Mills Plains, Van Diemen's Land' painted by John Glover in 1835. This painting, one of the best-known and most personal images in the history of Australian colonial art, was featured in an article entitled 'ADFAS Pokolbin Tour of Tasmania' (available for reading and download on this website) by ADFAS Pokolbin member Heather McKendry .



'A view of the artist's house and garden, in Mills Plains, Van Diemen's Land' painted by John Glover in 1835



Another was 'The immigrant's ship' painted by John Charles Dollman in 1884, (shown below) which featured in the second ADFAS Pokolbin lecture in 2017 by Paul Atterbury 'New Horizons'. This lecture was about the art associated with the mass migration from Britain to Australia in the mid 19th Century. The work was shown as part of the slide presentation during the lecture.



'The immigrant's ship' painted by John Charles Dollman in 1884

A third painting which caught our eye was called 'Evening Shadows, backwater of the Murray, South Australia' painted by H. J. Johnstone in 1880. This magnificent work depicts a beautiful scene of the Murray River with giant river red gums and an indigenous camp, and combines photographic



'Evening Shadows, backwater of the Murray, South Australia' painted by H. J. Johnstone in 1880

realism with symbolism.

It was the first painting to be acquired by the art gallery on its formation in 1881 and is one of the most loved paintings in the collection.

Moving on from the cultural scene, we also found time to catch the tram to Glenelg (a name which can be spelt backwards). Glenelg is a beachside suburb of Adelaide and well worth a visit.



Children's water park at end of tram line in Glenelg



The beach at Glenelg ideal for children

We also explored the streets of North Adelaide, just across the river from the CBD. This inner-city suburb has large and expensively restored historic houses and several 'eat streets', and would be the equivalent of the eastern suburbs in Sydney.

Adelaide also impressed with the number of Universities within the CBD. We counted 3 universities within the CBD area comprising the University of Adelaide (see cover image), the University of South Australia and Flinders University. Adelaide is an education hub with a large and diverse student population enjoying a low cost of living and modern amenities in a pleasant and secure environment. Apparently, the universities consistently rate highly in international rankings and student satisfaction surveys.

Our flight home utilised a fuel stop at Parkes and required manoeuvring around developing thunderstorms in the Mudgee-Orange area before arriving home early afternoon. A wonderful time in Adelaide and a place to consider putting on the 'annual visit' list.

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