

All you need to know about the 24th Odyssey

Ardrossan is a town located on the east coast of the Yorke Peninsula, about 150 kilometres by road from the Adelaide city centre. It is notable for its deepwater shipping port and its towering coastal cliffs of red clay.

The town was largely initiated by wheat farmers and wheat transporters in the late 19th century who needed infrastructure to ship their produce across the Gulf St. Vincent to Port Adelaide. The site was chosen near an old boat landing at Parara. It was named by Governor Fergusson after the Ardrossan seaport in Scotland and it was proclaimed on 5 November 1873.

Ardrossan Jetty

A jetty was constructed in 1878 to accommodate the steamships and windjammers used to ship grain. Today this jetty forms a major attraction to anglers.

The Stump-Jump Plough

Ardrossan is famous as the location of Clarence Smith's factory where he manufactured the Stump-jump plough between 1880 and 1935, one of South Australia's first and most important inventions. One of the old buildings now provides an ideal home for the Museum.

The ingenuity of early settlers was evident when in 1876 the laborious backbreaking work of clearing mallee stumps became a practical proposition with the invention of the 'stump jump plough'. Invented by R.B and Clarence Smith this invention helped revolutionize the task of reducing the despised mallee scrub. This was also assisted by knocking down and burning the growth of the mallee trees discovered by Charles Mullens at Wasleys, and the improvement of scrub rollers by William Fowler which allowed a team to travel over already rolled scrub.

Ardrossan is known as the home of the stump jump plough and the ingenuity of the Smith Brothers is remembered and showcased at the local Ardrossan and Districts Historical Museum. Open Sundays and Public Holidays from 2.30-4.30pm or by appointment.

During the early 1900s, the town expanded significantly due to income from the surrounding farms.

Mining

After the depression in the 1930s, the town and its businesses were largely stagnant until a large open-cut dolomite mine was opened by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP) in the 1950s for use in its steel manufacture at Whyalla on the Eyre Peninsula and Port Kembla in New South Wales. A new one kilometre (3,300 ft) long jetty was added and at the same time construction was started with grain storage silos. The new jetty currently services ships loading dolomite and salt from the solar salt pans at Price, approximately 10 km north. There is a great lookout point near the open cut mine.

With mining exploration taking place south of the town, there are great prospects for the town. There is ongoing community liaison.

Tourism

Today, tourism plays a large part in Ardrossan's economy with the town being a popular destination for Adelaide residents on weekends. It is a popular location to catch fish and blue crabs which are abundant during the months of September to April each year. The beach is safe for swimming and the views of the majestic red cliffs are particularly stunning at sunrise.

Register on arrival at the Meals on Wheels Rooms, corner of West Terrace and Second Street, where you will be greeted with coffee, tea and scones. Registration will be open at 2.30 pm Friday and 12-2.00 pm on Saturday.

Meals to be held in the Community Club at the Football Oval, corner of the Maitland Road and West Terrace

Friday night: Ardrossan Angels (raise money by catering for The Relay for Life. Their finger food is delicious and plentiful.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday breakfast: The Meraki Sole will be open from 7.30 am for breakfast. This cafe is operated by a young couple in a new business.

Lunches: Meraki Sole and The Coffee House offer a variety of light meals, there is also Ardrossan Bakery offering the usual delicious fare, Four Jays (fish and chips) and The Ardrossan Roadhouse.

Saturday Dinner: Ardrossan Sport and Recreation Centre (tennis, basketball, netball) members will be serving us with a choice of roast (beef or pork) and sticky date pudding or cheesecake for sweets.

Sunday Lunch: Rita and John Molnar will be supplying lunch of fish parcels, mild chili con carne, savoury rice, apple strudel and berry strudel. Rita and John live at Stansbury and is just 57 km south of Ardrossan, on the coast. At \$10, their generosity is appreciated. Drinks will be available.

Sunday Dinner: The Ardrossan RSL will be catering tonight where you have a choice of roast chicken, vegetables and gravy, lamb shanks, mash and vegetables, fish chips and salad, and pavlova and trifle, both served with ice-cream.

Activities

Grand Parade Saturday morning: Assemble at the RSL, corner of West Terrace and First Street, from where we will proceed down First Street to the parking area on the cliff tops.

Winery tour and tasting: Emoyeni Wines, Bowman Road, Ardrossan. There will be a bus pick up from the caravan parks, the Ardrossan Hotel-Motel and the football oval for \$2 donation.

Street Parade: Bikes, riders and pillions to assemble at the RSL Hall, at the top of First Street at 10.00 am on Saturday. Route is quite simple: down First Street to the end, make a U-turn at the end of the median strip, then back up to the RSL.

Guided Ride Saturday: Lunch stop at Yorketown - **Marie's Delights**, 23 Warooka Road (main street), Yorketown. They sell everything from sandwiches, etc., pies and plenty for the sweet tooth. All products are made by Marie and her daughter - not to be missed. They also cater for special dietary requirements. They can cater for up to 50 at a time, but I need to let her know how many beforehand. Check Marie's Delights, Yorketown, on the net.

Other things to do in Ardrossan:

Crabbing (bring your nets/rakes if you are in a car).

Fishing and crabbing off the town jetty.

There is a walking trail along the cliff tops that extends from the BHP to Tiddy Widdy.

Want a hit of tennis? The old courts (near Meals on Wheels) are free of charge.

The Museum will be open and it is a real eye-opener. Small charge applies.

The Hospital Op Shop (open Friday and Saturday morning)

The Variety Store has something for everyone (even though you didn't know you needed it).

Raffles/Auctions: There will be a quilt raffle, and an auction of a print of a scene in the local area, by known photographer, Vicki Freer. The proceeds will be donated to worthy children's causes in Ardrossan.

Friday Night's Tea: Supplied by the Ardrossan Angels, a well established charity group that has competed in the Relay for Life over many years, with a high rate of success. The menu will consist of high quality finger food, and plenty of it.

Breakfasts: Meraki Sole, in the main street, next to the school, will be offering a shortish menu for breakfast each day. Meraki Sole - To do something with soul, creativity or love; to put something of yourself into your work.

Saturday Night's Dinner: Ardrossan Sport and Recreation Centre members will be supplying tonight's meal. The members of this group belong to netball, tennis and basketball and raise money to promote their sports among the (mostly) young people of Ardrossan. Some of them are also part of the Angels, so you can be rest assured of a high quality meal.

Sunday Night's Tea: Tonight it's the turn of the Ardrossan RSL to ensure we are well fed. These members have worked tirelessly to extend their (once) small premises on the corner of First Street and West Terrace into a well patronised facility for all, not just RSL members.

Lunch at Rita and John Molnar's (Sunday): What can I say?! For a meagre \$10, Rita and John will put on a sumptuous lunch, probably assisted by the 'Maltese Connection'! Anyone who has been in the Club for many years, will remember the good times we had in Coobowie with Rita and John, and family.

Emoyeni Wines: A very local boutique winery that has port to die for. Ossie and Maria Hollitt will be happy to show you how they started and give a run-down on the vineyard. One of Ardrossan's worst kept secrets. 'Emoyeni' is a Zulu word, meaning 'spirited wind'.