



Joe Bredl with Goanna

The following brochures can be obtained from the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre:

- (1) Renmark Tourist Drive
- (2) Paringa Tourist Drive
- (3) History Trail of Renmark Cemetery
- (4) Renmark Rose Drive/Walk

For all tourist information contact the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre:

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
 Saturday 9am - 4pm
 Sunday & P. Hols 10am - 4pm
 Closed Christmas Day & Good Fridays

Visit: 84 Murray Avenue, Renmark or Phone: 8586 6704
www.visitrenmark.com

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Map prepared by Visual-Link



'Olivehood'



REMARK TOURIST DRIVE

Length of Drive: 43 km
 Approx Time: 1 ½ hrs



*Renmark Fruit Growers Co-op Ltd
now site of Renmark Plaza*



Apricot Drying Greens



Charles Chaffey



Renmark Growers Distillery



*Old Railway Station
now Renmark Paringa Council's
Community & Civic Centre*

BRIEF HISTORY OF RENMARK

Although there were other white settlers in the area prior to their arrival, the Chaffey brothers are honoured as founders of Renmark. The Canadian-born George and William Chaffey were invited to Australia to create an irrigation colony at Mildura. The project was delayed due to political disputes and in the meantime an agreement for the establishment of an irrigation colony at Renmark was signed on 14th Feb 1887.

30,000 acres from the Bockmark Station lease was granted to the Chaffey's on which to build the new colony. Vineyards and fruit blocks slowly emerged throughout the district.

In 1893, the Renmark Irrigation Trust was established to supply water to the growers and in the early years, it also played a role in the administration and governing of the settlement. Initially, Renmark was almost a prohibition settlement but on 3rd March 1897 a liquor license was granted to the Renmark Hotel and it became the first community owned hotel in the Commonwealth and was administered by a trust.

During its brief history, Renmark has witnessed many changes. Once, it played a major role as a port for paddle-steamers, until the introduction of the railway signaled the end of the river trade era. The railway was, in turn, made redundant with the advent of the prime-movers to transport freight.

The township has survived memorable floods, such as in 1956; droughts in 1914 and 2007 - 2010, storms and threat of bushfires. All of these in just over a one hundred years.

In recent years, the focus of the area has once again returned to the river with a growth in tourism and usage of the river for water activities and recreational purposes. Future developments have considered the tourism potential in the area by including features such as accommodation and recreational facilities & activities.

The Renmark Paringa Council continues to support the importance of our growing tourist industry by operating the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre.

This drive has been designed for completion either in sections or as a whole. The length of the drive is approximately 43 km plus optional drive to Cooltong.

We hope you enjoy your drive!

Start: *When leaving the Visitor Information Centre, turn right onto Pyap Street. Continue to Sturt Highway.*

- (1) **Renmark Paringa Council Chambers** built in 2007 at a cost of 3.8 million dollars. This was built free of debt to the rate payers. The land is where the old Railway Station was situated. The first train to arrive in Renmark was in 1927 on January 31st, the same day the Paringa Bridge was opened. The last steam train to be used was on August 27th and 28th 1977. The last diesel train was on 21st May 1982 and the station operated only as a depot until July 1985 when it was closed altogether. **Turn right, proceed along Sturt Highway and to the left**
- (2) **SES and Fire Station** was situated in 18th street next to the Meals on Wheels building until this new building was erected in 2003 **Turn left at Renmark Avenue.**
- (3) **Darnley Taylor Park and skate-park (Stop)** was opened in 2004. Darnley Taylor was the Managing Director of the local newspaper 'The Murray Pioneer' and a Councillor for the Renmark Paringa Council for many years. He died suddenly at the age of 64.

- (4) **Renmark Shopping Plaza (Stop)** was only completed in November 2007. Here stood the Riverland Fruit Co-op. It closed down in 2001. **Continuing along Renmark Avenue.**
- (5) **Dyer's Transport Pty. Ltd.** had its beginnings in 1924 with only two trucks, carting wood to Angove's Winery and carting fruit. The freight service now runs 30 trucks. **Continue along Renmark Avenue.**
- (6) **G.J. Dix & Sons** was originally a packing shed and started in 1908. It wasn't until the late 1920's that it became an engineering firm. **Continue along Renmark Avenue.**
- (7) **Renmano Winery** started as Renmark Growers' Distillery in 1916. It was purchased by 130 fruit-growers (approximate). The intake was about 1,000 tons of fruit and was processed into spirits. All operations closed in Renmark in 2007 and is now a part of B.R.L. Hardy (Berri Estates) in Berri. **Turn left onto Twenty Third Street to Plush's Bend.**
- (8) **Plush's Bend (Stop)** is a camping ground (maximum stay is 7 nights). **Turn back onto Twenty Third Street, then turn left onto Moorna Street.**
- (9) **Ruston's Roses (Stop)** is a stunning rose centre where cut roses are exported all over Australia. There are 27 acres with 50,000 rose bushes and 4,000 varieties. There is a collection of Classic Vintage Cars for viewing, a beautiful gift shop and café. **Turn back along Twenty Third Street, turn left and continue along Renmark Avenue.**
- (10) **Bookmark Creek** this feed channel on the river flats near the bridge clearly shows the damage to the environs caused by salt water. **Proceed along Renmark Avenue until you reach rusty wrought iron gates, 2kms on left.**
- (11) **'Bangalore'** the home of Colonel Arthur Morant who arrived in Renmark in 1890 and purchased 100 acres of cleared land. The house was built in the 1890's and is heritage listed (private property). **Proceed along Renmark Avenue. On your left is Renmark Golf & Country Club & on your right is Almond Co.**
- (12) **Almond Co. (Stop at the Almond Hut)** this is a 60 year old company but has been in Renmark since 1994. 8,000 tons of Almonds are processed each year. **Turn back towards Renmark, proceed to Industry Road and turn left.**
- (13) **Kahlon Winery (Stop)** established in 2004. 3,000 tons of grapes are crushed each year. Wine tasting of 'Long Tail' brand wine is available and sold at the cellar door. **Turn back along Industry Road to Renmark Avenue, then turn left.**
- (14) **Bredl's Wonderworld of Wildlife (Stop)** in 1957, Hungarian born Joe Bredl began keeping snakes as a hobby. Due to public interest this hobby expanded into a zoo. The existing premises started in 1977. In 1986, the park received world recognition for breeding in captivity, the first Perentie Monitor (Goanna). **Proceed along Renmark Avenue.**

- (15) **'Wonga Wonga'** was built in 1930 and was the home of Mr. T.M. Price who was born in 1899 and was the son of one of Renmark's first settlers. The 12 roomed house was situated on 30 acres of vines and peaches. Mr Price resided here until 1986. He owned 12 shops in Renmark, 120 acres of citrus and apricots in what is called the '60 foot' area and was chairman of the Irrigation Trust from 1957 - 66. **Continue along Renmark Avenue.**
- (16) **Mallee Estate (Stop)** have had vineyards since 1969 and have been wine makers since 1998. These cellars have only been open since 2005. Opening hours are from Wed - Sun 10.30 am - 5 pm. **Proceed along Renmark Avenue towards Renmark.**
- (17) **Olivewood Historic Homestead & Museum (Stop)** purchased by the National Trust in 1979. Is the original home of Charles Chaffey and was built in 1889. It is built of native pine timber in an American log cabin design. The home has 10 rooms and is on 13 hectares of orange and olive trees. The driveway is lined with heritage listed palm trees. The Chaffey Brothers were commissioned by the South Australian Government to establish the first irrigation system in Australia. There is also a very interesting museum worth visiting. **Proceed along Renmark Avenue towards Renmark on the left is a cream building.**
- (18) **Wood Son Seary Ltd.** In 1935 Mr. R. K. Wood and Mr. E.N. Seary formed an association which came out of interest in the area of G. Wood Son & Co. fruit merchants of Adelaide since 1854. The building was sold in 1985 and is now a commercial warehouse.
- Optional: When leaving Olivewood Historic Homestead & Museum turn left out of the car park to continue tourist drive to Angove Family Winemakers. Opposite the car park notice the house with the green roof.*
- (19) **Chaffey's Workman's House** Thomas Madigan built his house opposite 'Olivewood' on 20 acres of land with the first front rooms built of bluestone with pug and straw being used instead of cement. The remainder of the building was built of pine. The property was bordered along Renmark Avenue by a large Moss Rose hedge which was uprooted when the Fountain Garden Motel was built in 1963. Thomas Madigan's son, Geologist Professor Cecil Thomas Madigan was born in the house in 1889. Thomas's wife was a school teacher who conducted lessons in her home during Renmark's formative years. In 1913, George Dix who then owned the home, removed the timber rooms and rebuilt them in bluestone to match the remainder of the house. **Proceed along Twenty First Street to Bookmark Avenue. Turn left to Angove Family Winemakers.**
- (20) **Angove Family Winemakers (Stop)** was the first winery in the Riverland. Dr. W. Angove made his first wine when he thought that the patients from his Tea Tree Gully practice in Adelaide would benefit from it. His eldest son, Thomas Angove, established Angove's distillery and processing house in 1910, in Renmark. Then Angove's began planting their own vines in 1968 at Paringa. IN 1986, the Nanya Vineyard became the largest single vineyard in Australia. The range of wines produced at the winery are exported around the world. Angove's have won particular acclaim for their St Agnes Brandy. **Turn left at entrance, a few yards up (opposite Angove's) proceed down Etti wanda St, turn right onto Kulkyn St on the left.**
- (21) **Kulkyn Hall** the building at left has had many purposes. Built in 1919, it was used by St. Augustine's Church of England Grammar School until 1927. The Greek Orthodox Church used this hall until their own church building was built in 1970. **Continue along Kulkyn St, turn left onto Cucumunga Street and then turn right into Tarcoola Street.**
- (22) **The Union Church** was built in 1919 where Methodist and Congregationalists met for many years. A porch was added and later a Sunday School and Kindergarten room was added to the original building. The church is still used by the Uniting Church. **Continue along to the school on the right.**
- (23) **Renmark West Primary School** was known as the 'outback school' and is the second oldest department school in Renmark. It had 54 students when it opened in 1912. Renmark West School began as a 'supplementary' school (an annexe of Renmark Primary) on 5th February 1912 and as such, had no head teacher. It closed after only 2 weeks as there were too many students to allow it to operate as a supplementary school. On 3rd March 1912, Mr Goldsworthy was appointed as head teacher and the school became operational again. The school was also used as a Sunday School in its early days. In 2008, 178 students attended the school. **Proceed along Tarcoola St turn left onto Ontario and then right onto Chowilla St.**
- (24) **Agriexchange** the Weigall family built a packing shed to cater for the needs of growers and markets. Successful management and marketing allowed them to expand and merge with other smaller packing sheds. In 1989, Yandilla Park was formed when Weigall's merged with the citrus growing company EAC Investments Pty Ltd to become one of Australia's largest citrus growing, packing and marketing companies and was the first in Australia to earn Federal Government Status under the Australian Quality Assurance (AQA) Scheme. It is now known as Agriexchange. **Continue along Chowilla to Chino Street. Turn right to the lookout tower.**
- (25) **Renmark Rotary Look-out Tower (Stop)** is situated on Renmark's highest point. It was erected in 1961 by the Renmark Rotary Club. When facing the river, one can see the cliff top homes of Paringa on the right and to the left is the soldier settlement area of Cooltong. **Continue along Chino Street, turn right towards Renmark to the McCormick Centre for the Environment on the left.**
- Optional drive to Cooltong: Turn left along Ral Ral Ave towards Cooltong. An ex-servicemen's settlement established after the Second World War, the 'blockies' lived in Nissen Huts on their blocks until their homes were built. Approximately 7 km. If taking this drive, on returning to Renmark along Ral Ral Ave turn left into Warrego Street.*
- **Renmark North School** in October 1924, following the settlement of Returned Soldiers and their families on Block E lands, the first school at Renmark North was opened. For four years this school was held in the Church of England Mission Hut before a new building was opened in 1928. Further additions have been made to the school. 200 students attended the school in 2008.

Turn back and proceed to Ral Ral Avenue, turn left and drive towards Renmark.

(26) **McCormick Centre for the Environment (Stop)** is a \$2 million dollar public facility designed to support environmental education and research, nature based tourism and to serve the community as a unique resource. **Open to visitors 10am - 4pm Monday - Friday. Next door to the McCormick Centre.**

(27) **Old High School** the Chaffey Brothers designated some acres in their plan for Renmark for an Agricultural College. Unfortunately these 'college' blocks were allocated to private owners by the time the school was established on 3rd February 1925. The school began in the hall at the show grounds until 1927, when the land on Ral Ral Avenue was purchased from the District Council. The school contained sports fields, vineyards and orchards. In 1979, the High School was relocated to its present position in Thurk Street due to a rapid increase in enrolments. The old High School is now used for the local wood working group. **Proceed along Ral Ral Avenue over the bridge (Bookmark Creek) on right.**

(28) **Renmark Paringa District Hospital** Renmark's first hospital was a cottage hospital built in 20th Street in 1898 but as it had little use it was sold and converted into picker's quarters. The Renmark & Paringa District Hospital was opened in March 1915 after an interval of some years without adequate hospital facilities. The cost of building the main hospital block was £5009. The hospital now consists of three main sections; the general hospital, the nursing home (built in 1979) and the hostel (built in 1986). A maximum of 17 patients are catered for at the hospital and 35 patients in the nursing home and 54 in the hostel. **Next door to the hospital on left.**

(29) **Riverside Estate** (Alternative Life Style Village) Murray Dyer Ave is a new complex which continues to develop. **On the right are the football ovals & swimming pool. Turn right onto Cowra Street.**

(30) **Renmark Swimming Centre** The first swimming pool called the E.E. Barber Memorial Pool was opened in 1933 behind the Renmark Police Station and closed in 1975 when the new swimming centre opened. **Proceed along Cowra Street.**

(31) **Renmark Bowling Club** was formed in 1935 opposite the hotel but later moved to this site in 1973. **Turn right onto Seventeenth Street.**

(32) **Chaffey Theatre** opened in May 1984 and was refurbished in 2008. It is state funded and managed by Country Arts SA. The seating capacity is 494. Most entertainment was conducted in the Institute prior to the Chaffey Theatre. **Turn right on exit from the Chaffey Theatre car park. At Thurk Street turn right passing TAFE SA on your right.**

(33) **Renmark High School** in 1975 the school reached an all time high for enrolments at the old location of 638 students. In 1979, the school moved into the town as part of the Education Complex. In 2008, 580 students attended the high school. **Turn left onto Eighteenth Street.**

(34) **Renmark Primary School** the original Town School opened in 1887 in a wood & iron building on the corner of Renmark Avenue and Fourteenth Street with only 16 children. In 1893, a stone school building and residence was erected on Eighteenth Street. The average attendance that year was 75 students. In 2008, there were 307 Primary enrolments and 170 Junior Primary enrolments. **Turn left onto Murtho Street and continue to Ral Ral Avenue, turn left. Drive along Ral Ral Avenue and then right onto Cowra Street. Continue down as far as the Water Treatment Plant on the left (opposite 10th & 9th Streets).**

(35) This area was known as '**Bag Town**' People lived in bagged houses painted with Calcimine and dirt floors in the very early days of Renmark. **Continue on past the Water Treatment Plant into the 'Jane Eliza' Estate.**

(36) The '**Jane Eliza Estate**' is a housing development and was started in 1988 by the Showell family and was reclaimed land. It has been built one metre above the 1956 flood level. **Turn onto First Street on left and follow Meander Avenue around until you reach Jane Eliza Avenue and turn right. Continue along and turn left onto Tenth Street.**

(37) The **wood and iron cottages** in this area were built around 1905. **Turn right onto Thurk Street.**

(38) **St. Joseph's Catholic School** was opened in 1919 in the Catholic Church Hall on Ral Ral Avenue. Up until 1968, the school held classes for Primary and Secondary students. The enrolments for this school are between 195-220. **Continue to Ral Ral Avenue.**

(39) **St. Theresa Catholic Church** the first Catholic Church 'St Columba's' was a wood and iron building believed to have been erected in the 1890's. The parish was officially established in 1914. Presbytery on the right was opened in 1926 and in 1941 the present church was built on the site of the wood and iron building, which stood for 50 years. **Turn left along Ral Ral Avenue.**

(40) **Masonic Lodge** the Renmark Masonic Lodge No. 55 was consecrated in 1905. The first building was completed on its present site in 1917 with extensions made in 1933. **Proceed along Ral Ral Avenue.**

(41) '**The Murray Pioneer**' newspaper was established in 1892. For the first two years the newspaper was a chromograph production printed from a hand written original. In 1894, it became a type-printed paper and the letter press method was used up until 1978. It has been in the Taylor family since 1905. **Turn right, crossing over Ral Ral Avenue proceed along Murtho Street to 177 Sixteenth Street.**

(42) **The Frank Harding Collection (Stop)** featuring a 800 square ft. ceiling mural depicting Australia's most famous bush-rangers. Frank Harding (27/9/35 - 18/9/90) served in the SA Police until 1975 when he left to paint for a living. Since then his works in pen, ink, oils and egg tempera have been exhibited throughout Australia and Overseas. A most unique collection of Australian history, art and memorabilia. There is also 70 paintings of Aviation Combat during WWII signed by the individual pilots who flew the planes. **(To arrange a visit, phone 8586 6972).**