

# South Australia

## ▲ COLONIAL SETTLEMENT 1836



**T**he British Parliament, under the South Australia Colonisation Act 1834, founded South Australia as a colony of free settlers. There was no assumption of *terra nullius*, and the British acknowledged Aboriginal land rights in the area. Unfortunately, these orders were ignored by the European settlers.

The province of South Australia was proclaimed at Holdfast Bay (near what is today known as the suburb of Glenelg) in December 1836 by Governor John Hindmarsh.

The now-famous vineyard regions of the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale were established several years later and copper was discovered at Burra in 1842. Further deposits of copper were discovered around the region later tagged “the Copper Coast”. This led to an influx of miner immigration from Cornwall, as tin and copper mining

industries declined in England around this time.

The colony was granted self-government in 1857 and the Parliament of South Australia was formed. South Australia led the way to democratic reform for Britain and the rest of the world by granting all male British subjects over the age of twenty-one the right to vote. The same right was granted to women in the colony in 1894. It was not until 1928 that Britain granted its own female citizens the vote.

The “one man, one vote” system came into effect in 1856 in South Australia, but it took more than seventy years for Britain to adopt the same system in 1928.

## ▲ City of churches

South Australia was a colony that promised freedom from religious persecution and attracted a wide variety of religious denominations such as the German Lutherans. This is how its capital city, Adelaide, became known as “the city of churches”.

## ▲ Flag of 1878

South Australia’s original flag design was created in 1872 and featured a Southern Cross but it was rejected as it was considered too similar to Victoria’s flag. A new flag using the South Australian seal was designed in 1876 and came into use in November 1878. The seal depicted Britannia meeting with an Indigenous Australian but proved difficult to replicate. It was replaced in 1904 by the flag used today, which features the bird emblem of South Australia, the piping shrike.