

Rawnsley Park marks 50 years of tourism



■ **NEW BOOK...** Former Advertiser senior journalist Kym Tilbrook has written *Pastoralism to Tourism: A History of Rawnsley Park Station*. The sheep station turned tourist attraction celebrated 50 years of tourism on Friday.

FLINDERS Ranges tourism operator Rawnsley Park Station launched a book celebrating 50 years of tourism on Friday, April 6.

Pastoralism to Tourism: A History of Rawnsley Park Station was written by former Advertiser senior journalist Kym Tilbrook, who has family ties on Yorke Peninsula.

Mr Tilbrook said he enjoyed writing the book.

"I have had a lifelong love of the Flinders," he said.

"My great-great-grandfather worked there in the 1860s and I spent many happy holidays walking in the Flinders with my family.

"To be entrusted to write about Rawnsley Park is a great honour and I thank (owners) Tony and Julie Smith for backing me."

The land used to be part of Prelinna and Arkaba Stations.

It was purchased by Tony's father Clem Smith in 1953, and he changed the name to Rawnsley Park Station in 1961.

Rawnsley Park Station welcomed its first paying guests in May 1968.

Clem and his wife Alison ran shearing demonstrations to generate extra

income on the then-struggling station.

Fifty years on, the station is a world-class tourism venture, winning multiple awards and the luxury eco-villas have been named one of the best regional tourism developments in South Australia.

Tony said his parents' vision laid the foundations for the success story Rawnsley Park Station has become.

"Times were tough on a sheep station in the Flinders Ranges in the 1960s, Clem and Alison realised they had to diversify to survive, it was a decision that paid off," he said.

The book includes photographs by Karen English of *Eleven Across*, sections on the Smith family's early links with the Flinders, the geology of the ranges and information about the Adnyamathanha people.

It also contains notable historical events such as the disappearance of Nicholas Bannon in 1959 and the near-death of former Miss South Australia Marilyn Gilbertson in 1967.

Pastoralism to Tourism is available from Rawnsley Park Station, phone 8648 0700 or email info@rawnsleypark.com.au.

Taste Australia on Yorke Peninsula

YORKE Peninsula will become a food lovers' heaven for the next two weekends when Australia's top eating and drinking festival Tasting Australia returns.

The festival includes more than 140 events, visiting 11 regions of South Australia in 10 days.

Coopers Alehouse Wallaroo will host Coopers and Crabs, pairing Yorke Peninsula's blue swimmer crabs and cold beer, on Saturday, April 14.

Barley Stacks Wines will host Feast on Yokes, a free event showcasing its wines as well as local produce from the surf and the turf, sweets, beers and live entertainment noon-4pm, Sunday, April 15.

The festival will return to the Alehouse the next week for Prawn and Vine, in which local Spencer Gulf prawn fishers and Kirrihill winemakers will join diners for four courses celebrating local seafood and Clare Valley Wines on Saturday, April 21.

Tasting Australia program director and head chef of restaurant Orana, Jock Zonfrillo, encourage festival-goers to visit the regional events.

"Adelaide is just the start of this year's Tasting Australia," he said.

"Get out to our regions, meet the producer, enjoy a glass of wine with the winemaker, or be served by some of our best local chefs."

To book for any of these events, or for further information, visit tastingaustralia.com.au.

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