NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The 2nd General Meeting of the Society for 1985 will be held in

THE CONSERVATION CENTRE, 120 WAKEFIELD STREET, ADELAIDE

on

MONDAY 22ND APRIL 1985 AT 8.00 PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the previous General Meeting:
   Minutes of the General Meeting held at the Conservation Centre, Monday
   25th March 1985, having been circulated in this Journal, to be confirmed.

3. New Members:
   No new members have joined the Society since the last meeting.

4. Papers and Journals:
   Papers and journals from other societies and organizations will be tabled
   at this meeting.

5. Business:
   The field trip "On the Trail of Tjilbruke", to be held on Thursday
   25th April 1985, to be discussed.

6. Speaker:

   Ms. Dorothy Tunbridge will address the meeting and the title of
   her address will be:-

     "Language as Heritage: The Flinders Ranges Example"

   Ms Tunbridge is a linguist working on Yura Ngawarla - the language
   spoken by the Adnyamathanha people of the Flinders Ranges.

7. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the address.
A CENTURY OF VIEWPOINTS

The Aborigines of the Cooper through European eyes.

Compiled by H.M. Tolcher.

I am sure....they are naturally a mild and inoffensive people ....They are also a merry people and sit up laughing and talking all night long....Several of them brought us large troughs of water and ....held them up for our horses to drink; an instance of nerve that is very remarkable, for I am quite sure that no white man, (having never seen or heard of a horse before, and with the natural apprehension the first sight of such an animal would create), would deliberately have walked up to what must have appeared to them the most formidable brutes.

Charles Sturt, 1846.

....they are, however, easily frightened, and, although fine-looking men, decidedly not of a warlike disposition. They show the greatest inclination to take whatever they can, but will run no unnecessary risk in so doing....they appear to be meanspirited and contemptible in every respect.

William Wills, 1861.

You may feel pity for the blacks but they are such an idle, incorrigibly treacherous lying race, that I am getting into a state of aversion towards them....I can well understand the feeling of bitter enmity which always subsists between the outside settlers and the native tribes.

Alfred Howitt, 1862.

They are a splendid lot of people, and in most excellent condition....I should be sorry to trust to their hospitality or generosity, as I think they possess but little of either of those qualities.

John McKinlay, 1862.

....they are very harmless fellows when kept in their place, but treacherous if too well treated; they have a great respect for me, the reason of which is that I keep a good supply of physic, such as Holloway's pills and ointment, pain-killer, chlorodyne, salts, etc., and never go about without a revolver in my belt - just that they may see it. I have never had to use it yet on them....

Anonymous settler, 1878.

They are disgusting and beastly filthy in their habits.... Their ceremonies....are simply orgies for the display of disgusting vice....There is not one redeeming trait in their character, and it is only fear of the whites which keeps them in subjection....

R.H. Lawrance,
Parrachirrina Station, 1881.
We did not have any trouble with the blacks the whole time we were away and in most cases found them trustworthy and reliable. Treat them kindly and they will not forget it, and will respect you. Do not let a blackfellow have all his own way or he will think he is "boss"; rule him firmly, it is the better way.

C.L.K. Scott (1935) 

....the aboriginal....has proved and is a very useful animal. As such he has been dealt with, and his presence has enabled development to be carried on to a greater extent than it otherwise would have been....When once subordinated to a more intelligent will the black discharges a function which cannot equally be exercised by his superior master, the white man....the attempt to Christianize the natives enables them to be more skilful in deceptive practices than they were prior to being subjected to such ostensibly laudable generosity.

Special correspondent to "The Observer" accompanying the Queensland Border Railway Commission, 1891.

We are among the blacks here - a jovial, happy crew....Their great faith in their own powers sustains them a good deal, I think. Their powers of endurance are wonderful....

R.J. Graham, Cordillo, 1900.

For all niggers are noted liars male and female.

Alfred Walker, Innamincka Station, 1905.

The blacks are at all times the victims of the unscrupulous.


On the whole they are not of good physique; absence of strenuous work, rendered unnecessary by the receipt of Government rations, tending to obesity and general flabbiness....The naturalist finds that the altered conditions are a distinct advantage; these station natives being well supplied with food and tobacco, cannot be induced to collect specimens, and as the smaller mammals and reptiles can scarcely be otherwise obtained, the collections suffer greatly in consequence.


To say the least, we have nothing to be proud of in our treatment of the Australian aborigine....for in this very country and along that fine watercourse, Cooper's Creek, and among the innumerable lakes which it feeds, thousands of natives once lived happily.... Where are all those fine men and women gone in so short a time?.... I feel we are much to blame, not only for exterminating the aborigine
long before his time, but also for not keeping some records of the race.

Captain S.A. White, 1917.

The few that today remain to repeat the proud legends of those who came but a generation before betray that savage magnanimity and kindly spirit which have only too often been misunderstood and abused by their white brother....such noble qualities are not wholly due to European influence but in a measure belonged to the pristine morals of the earliest North-eastern tribes. The aborigine has nowhere received an honest measure for measure, and what has been taken from him has never been replaced on principles of justice, reason or science.

Herbert Basedow, Medical Relief Expedition, 1919.

Now it is a job to get a blackboy to get on even a quiet horse....Too much civilization and their being pampered up. They are jolly well looked after on every station, and are getting good wages. ....while they can get game and fish they will not work....Some of them run a buggy and pair, and I have actually seen them with a four-in-hand.

C.F. Murray, Beltana Pastoral Company, 1924.

The small band of natives who still exist in the station districts have changed before the moderation of civilisation and have partially adopted the habits and methods of the white man. They assist at the branding camps, and their splendid horsemanship is a feature of the event. These last survivors of a once powerful race work well and are considered - in the vernacular of the stockmen - "gun" riders and stout friends.


Passionately though these people held to their tribal lands, they seemed incapable of sustaining hate. From their inherent gentleness came the seeds of their defeat.

George Farwell, 1950.