NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The first general meeting of the Society for 1979 will be held in the Museum Education Building, North Terrace, Adelaide at

8.00PM MONDAY 26 MARCH 1979

AGENDA

1. Apologies.

2. Minutes of General Meeting held Monday 23rd October 1978 to be confirmed. A copy of these minutes is attached.

3. New Members.
   The following new members have been elected to the Society.

   Mr. Phillip DIACK
   Mr. Neville SIMMONS
   Mr. Geoffrey DUTSCHKE
   Mrs. Pamela DUTSCHKE

4. Papers & Journals:
   Papers and journals from other Societies and Organizations will be tabled at the meeting.

5. Business.
   The Secretary to report on the following :-
   (a) Field Projects for 1979.
   (b) 'Magic & Medicine' Seminar, July 1979.
   (c) Petition.
   (d) Articles to be published in the Journal.

6. Speaker.
   MR. DAVID TILBROOK, Curator of Conservation, S.A. Museum, will give an address to the Society entitled :-

   "MUSEUM CONSERVATION."

   This address will be illustrated with slides.

7. Supper.
   Coffee and tea with biscuits.

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ABORIGINAL SITES ON SOUTHERN YORKE PENINSULA

By ALLAN PARSONS

Existing evidence of Aboriginal occupation on Southern Yorke Peninsula is rather scarce but on closer study some is present. Most of the native wells were deepened and enlarged when white man took over for stock and domestic use. This was not always successful as the deepening often meant, or caused, another stream to be tapped or perhaps the existing stream to become too brackish to be suitable for use.

Many of these wells existed in the sand-dunes along the coast line. After white man enlarged these wells in some instances the stock had to cross the dunes to get access to the water. Other farmers piped the water away from dunes.

In one case the stock travelling over dunes to water caused much erosion. This meant the close proximity to wells was made bare and exposed native artifacts which before such time, were not known to exist on Southern Yorke Peninsula.

I spoke of this discovery at an Anthropological Society meeting in May 1964.

In January 1973 Minlaton Council workmen were carting stone for road making from a paddock three kilometres from the coast of Spencer Gulf. This stone had been handpicked by the landowner in the early days when the ground was cleared for cultivation. The stone had been put in heaps on the edge of swampy or magnesia ground which was unsuitable for cropping.

When two of these heaps were removed, one of the workmen who was operating a front end loader noticed that several holes in the kunkar were exposed. On probing about with an iron dropper and cleaning out silt, water became visible and slowly rose almost to ground level. These holes ranged from 10 to 15 centimetres in diameter and some were almost a metre in depth.

One of these holes is most interesting in that at a specific part of the opening there is a groove or lip like the spout of a jug which I believe would have to be man made.

This land has been in one family for several generations and one of the family who is now over eighty years of age was not aware of the existence of these native wells or cisterns.

Another native well still exists in its original form close to Port Rickaby. This well is situated on a flat salty area between a narrow coastal ridge and the coast line proper and appears as a natural hole in the kunkar layer and is approximately thirty centimetres in diameter and fifty to sixty centimetres deep. The bottom of the well is reasonably hard and the walls perpendicular and is usually half filled with drinkable water.

I guess when the natives were using the well they would have kept it covered to keep out small game and to keep temperature of water down in hot weather.
ABORIGINAL SITES ON SOUTHERN YORKE PENINSULA Cont'd.

Several kilometres South of Brentwood in a patch of natural timber is a corroboree or ceremonial ground. The present owner of the land knew of its existence fifty or more years ago.

The actual site is quite flat, rectangular in shape and is bordered by a double row of kunkar nodules making like a path. At each corner the double row of stones extends out at an angular direction as if path used for congregating or dispersing. Only in lush years does the site grow much vegetation.

North of Minlaton in a patch of natural scrub is an unusual rock hole. This rock is lime-stone and in size one metre by one and one half metres. The surface of the Northern edge is fifteen centimetres above ground level while the Southern portion is level with ground, which means the surface is slightly sloping to the South.

The hole is in the centre of the rock and is thirty centimetres in diameter, twenty centimetres deep on high side and ten centimetres on the shallow side. About quarter of the circumference of the hole is taken up by four V-shaped grooves in the wall.

The grooves are three centimetres deep and ten centimetres perpendicular. The rest of the wall or circumference is taken up by very fine grooves.

Nobody has yet identified it as Aboriginal and there is nothing else about to compare it with.

I have spoken to the local residents, one of whom is ninety six years of age and whose family were the first residents in this immediate area and they have no knowledge of this unique and most interesting formation.

ALLAN PARSONS